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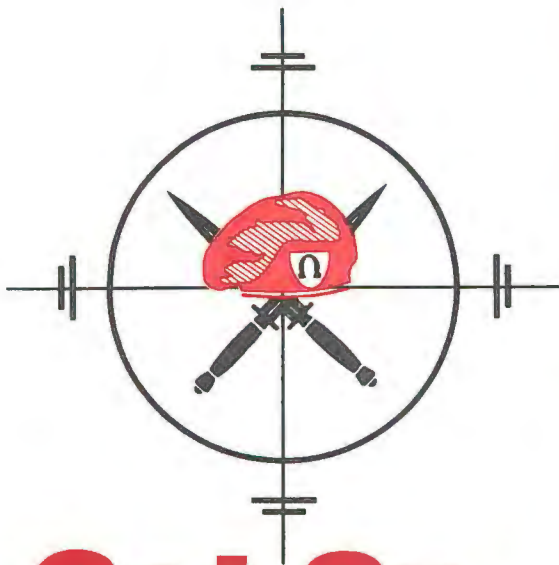
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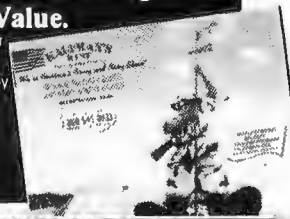
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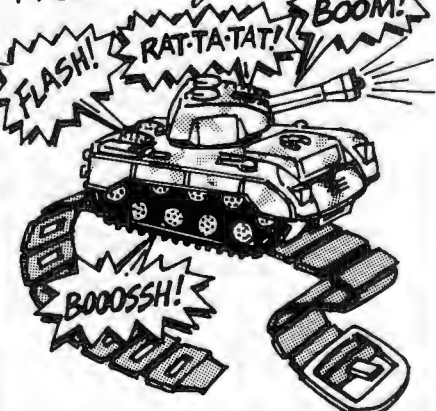
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Will Bush Wise Up In Time?

You don't have to be a rocket scientist to realize that George Bush's re-election is questionable. And it may well hinge on whether or not the gun-owning public votes for him, against him, or simply stays home.

It is generally accepted that the gun lobby can deliver up to 5 million votes in a presidential election — a number that could well guarantee Bush re-election.

However, in light of Bush's weaseling on our right to keep and bear arms, gun owners may vote for "none of the above" or not vote at all.

If Bush and his dork advisers realize the importance of the gun vote in time to help him, Bush is going to have to do more than utter a few mea culpas. He is going to have to admit not only that he made a mistake, as he did regarding tax increases, but take the following actions:

1. Call, ASAP, Secretary of the Treasury Nicholas Brady and have him repeal the import ban on semiautomatic "assault" rifles. And concurrently admit that people are not being killed on every street corner with AK-47s.

2. As commander in chief, he should insure that the Directorate of Civilian Marksmanship is funded on a continuing basis.

3. Bush should state in no uncertain terms he will veto any bill that includes a waiting period or similar ill-conceived legislation.

4. He should fire Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (BATF) Director Stephen Higgins and get across to his replacement that the March 1989 BATF definition of

"sporting" weapons is unacceptable; that any "lawful activity" in which firearms may be used is the criteria that must be accepted; that no more gestapo-type harassment will be tolerated by BATF agents, either collectively or individually.

All of the above could be done with a stroke of Bush's administrative pen. No congressional check-bouncers need approve. Certainly the antigunners will whine, but so what, they aren't going to vote for Bush anyway.

It's time to get off your ass, George Bush, if you want *four more years.* ☒



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FEATURES



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Photo: B. Head

HIGH-CAPACITY LIGHTWEIGHT Ragnar Benson
A look at Grendel's pacesetter P-30 pistols — 30-round capacity in a standard size, ultra modern package **31**

APACHES DRAW FIRST BLOOD Dale B. Cooper
In an operation requiring surgical precision, Apache pilots of the 101st Aviation Brigade poked out Iraq's electronic eyes, creating a safe corridor for U.S. bombing missions to Baghdad **32**

COMBATING THE NEW DRUG THREAT David Rivera
Like many good businessmen, Colombia's drug lords are diversifying — into opium and heroin. Drug enforcement authorities are on alert, but opium poppies are easy to cultivate and well-armed guerrillas are guarding the growing fields **38**

ITALIAN STALLION Peter G. Kokalis
For power plinkers who want to master an old-fashioned six-shooter, the Italians have cloned the single action .45 Colt revolver, age-old favorite of hunters, fastdraw competitors and drugstore cowboys **42**

WAR AMONG THE LINES AND SHADOWS Jim Morris
In 1976, the San Diego Police Department took on a job no one wanted: protecting the helpless illegal aliens routinely robbed, raped and murdered in the no-man's-land between the United States and Mexico. It became one of the most dangerous jobs in America **46**

SOF EXCLUSIVE: SPETSNAZ: FROM "CARAVAN HUNTERS" TO ELITE POLICE FORCE Jim Shortt
Longtime *SOF* correspondent is first to train former Soviet Spetsnaz. Once the spearpoint of the Soviet army, many Spetsnaz now serve on elite police units **50**



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Photo: Arthur Harnack



COLUMNS

UNEASY RIDERS Ray Muller
 Several crazy South Africans have designed a motorcycle tour you'll never read about in a travel magazine — a two-wheel trek through war-torn Angola. The locals are armed, but friendly; it's the everything-resistant mosquitoes and mined roadways that make it challenging **54**

GUN GESTAPO James L. Pate
 Government thugs smash into your home, ransack it, then depart leaving everything you own scattered on the floor with your doors wide open. A flashback from Nazi Germany? No, it recently happened in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and it *could* happen to you **56**

HERITAGE TRIES TO COVER UP (AGAIN) Paul Danish
 In true bureaucratic fashion, Heritage Foundation President Edwin J. Feulner Jr. responded to hundreds of letters from *SOF* readers on his sellout of the Second Amendment by trying to cover his ass, rather than admitting he's wrong **59**

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST Galen Geer
 Animal rights groups have damaged animal welfare programs, interfered with wildlife management and shut down vital research programs. Now, a group called Putting People First has decided it's time to fight back **60**

FROM REFUGEES TO LIBERATORS Greg Walker
 Can a ragtag bunch of demoralized refugees be turned into a fighting force? Sure — if they have U.S. Army Special Forces to train them. Here are the details of the sometimes painful transformation of Kuwaiti exiles into a liberation army **62**

GEER ON GEAR FOR '92 Galen Geer
 An adventurer's success may depend on his equipment. A report from New Orleans on the best and brightest from this year's SHOT show **66**

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Photo: Ray Muller



COVER

Former Soviet Spetsnaz troopers, this one armed with an AK-74, are no longer the feared "caravan hunters" of Afghanistan, but soldiers wondering where they will stand in the now-shattered union. Author Jim Shortt is the first Westerner to retrain members of this feared elite force. See *SOF*'s exclusive report starting on page 50. Photo: Jim Shortt

BULLETIN BOARD

KAREN MEDICAL PROJECT UPDATE ...

Plan A was for Refugee Relief International (RRI) to raise a reasonable amount of money so former SOF staffer John Kreiger, then in Thailand getting a story on the Karen freedom fighters (See "Last Stand in Manerplaw," May '92.), could buy medical supplies for the Karens. But the idea soon took on a life of its own. A couple high-powered Washington, D.C., fundraisers got behind this humanitarian project — resulting in the contribution of a quite useful sum from the United States and abroad; donations from SOF readers ranged from \$5 to \$3,500.

As a result, RRI was able to send a volunteer medical training team over to teach the Karens' medical people the fine points of chest and abdominal surgery, and the treatment of gunshot wounds. The RRI training crew comprised Dr. John Peters (a veteran of RRI remote-area medical relief efforts in Southeast Asia, Afghanistan, Central America and elsewhere), Dr. David Crowder of Gillette, Wyoming, and Dr. Forrest "Tim" Smith of Pleasanton, California. The medical training team has returned: mission accomplished. Watch for Dr. John's story on this mission in a future issue of SOF.

The wounded and sick Karen freedom fighters and their families thank you for your generosity. RRI thanks you. SOF thanks you. Great folks, our readers.

NUGGET FROM CHAIRMAN JEFF ...

This is quoted verbatim from Jeff Cooper's *Gunsite Gossip* newsletter: "When we point out that the Second Amendment has nothing to do with 'legitimate sporting purpose,' but rather with the defense of the people against political subjugation, we are

sometimes told in horror that the idea of a citizen's defending himself against an army is unthinkable in today's world. Well think again. The following is extracted from International Defense Review for January, 1992:

'Croatian snipers, armed with a variety of commercial hunting rifles, Yugoslav Mausers, Austrian Steyrs, American Remingtons and Winchesters, and modified Russian Dragunovs, completed the rout of the infantry already dismayed by the destruction of the tanks. The snipers, many of whom had optical sights, proved to be the Croats' most potent weapon, mov-



SOF Production Manager Kathy Allard fires for familiarization on pristine M1928 Thompson. Photo: Peter G. Kokalis

ing from position to position in the tunnel system, popping up in the Serbian rear, denying the infantry maneuver room, and terrorizing them at night.'

That did not happen in 1776. It is happening now.

BAD AMMO WARNING ...

SOF has received notice that certain lots of 7.62x51mm NATO ball ammunition made by Companhia Brasileira de Cartuchos (CBC) of Brazil, manufactured in 1975 for military export sales and now on the U.S. surplus market, can generate excessive pressures (up to 130,000 CUP!).

At least one modern rifle has burst with this ammunition. If you have any of this ammunition in your possession, do not attempt to fire it — return it to seller and call toll-free 800-742-1094

to receive additional information.

This ammunition may be identified by the headstamp "CBC 7.62 75" and if it is in its original cartons by the lot numbers 01 through 19, plus 19-A and 20, all dated 1975. Some 20 million rounds were manufactured in this batch, and it is not known how much of it ultimately reached the shelves of U.S. sporting goods stores.

In addition, CBC 7.62x51mm ammunition with any date that has the Spanish-language label "reengastada" on the carton, should also be considered potentially dangerous.

TOUR OF [NOT] DUTY ...

The first veteran's tour of Vietnam authorized by both the U.S. and Vietnamese governments leaves Los Angeles on 18 July for 10 days in Hanoi, Hue, Da Nang, Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) and battle sites all over Vietnam. It is sponsored by Special Veterans Excursions/International Association of Airborne Veterans, Dept. SOF, 2568 N. Clark St., Suite 340, Chicago, IL 60614;

phone: 312-327-3120. Contact them early for details, or for your place on the tour.

GOOD AMMO WARNING ...

The Winter 1992 issue of *Wound Ballistics Review*, the journal of the International Wound Ballistics Association, published a preliminary report that characterizes Winchester's .45 ACP 230-grain jacketed hollow-point round (Winchester product No. RA45230HP) as a "highly effective" round for military, law enforcement and self-defense use. The same issue of the *Review* also gave a rundown on Federal's 7.62x39mm soft-nose hunting round (it doesn't expand), and the "Exploder" .38 pistol rounds (they explode, but do no detectable damage to tissue). If you're interested in no-bull, no-manufacturer's-hype data on the rele-

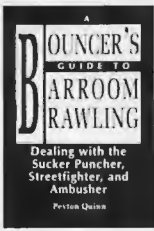
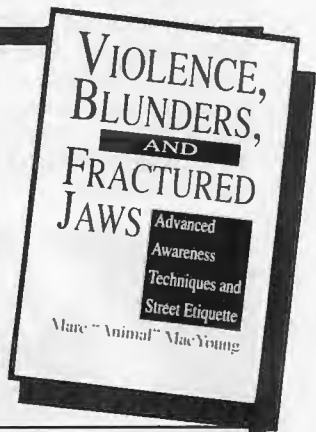
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VIOLENCE, BLUNDERS, AND FRACTURED JAWS

Advanced Awareness Techniques and Street Etiquette
by Marc "Animal" MacYoung

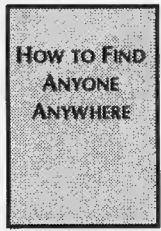
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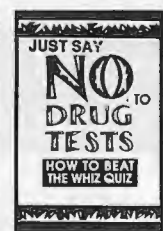
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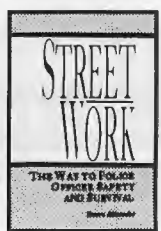
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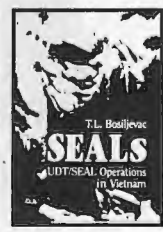
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tive effectiveness of various rounds, contact the IWBA, 2830 D Pinole Valley Road, No. 112, Pinole, CA 94564. Membership in the IWBA is by invitation only, but we of the great unwashed who merely are looking for hard data are welcome to subscribe to their publications.

Frank C. Brown, this bibliography is the first tool for anyone wanting to get a perspective on the POW/MIA issue. It is available from Rice Paddy Press, Dept. SOF, 18 Reed Ave., Hamilton Township, NJ 08610, at \$8 postpaid by first class mail.

for exorbitant license fees for all dogs and cats not neutered, along with a one-year moratorium on breeding (sponsored by PAWS, which is also presently protesting the Shriner's Circus, Acme Poultry Co., and fur at the Seattle Opera) had a simple plan for enforcement: Go house-to-house kicking doors in search of contraband animals. It is natural, we suppose, to grant dog catchers gestapo-like powers if you already condone arson and bombing as "acceptable crimes" in the "liberation" of animals, and if your convoluted idea of promoting the welfare of animals includes throwing tacks into show dog arenas and poisoning hunting dogs. Ever wonder what the head-up-their-bucket crowd does when there's no war to protest or when flying saucer sightings get scarce? Now you know.



NORTH STILL THREATENED BY TERRORISTS ...

A Virginia judge has ruled that former White House aide Oliver North can continue to carry a concealed weapon to protect himself against Middle Eastern terrorists. North was originally granted a concealed carry permit back in

1987, after being threatened by Abu Nidal, presumably for North's involvement in planning the U.S. bombing of Libya in 1986.

VE ARE HERE FUR DER HUNDE ...

One backer of a proposed King County, Washington, ordinance calling

U.S., FORMER SOVIET COMBAT CAMERAMEN MEET ...

Former Soviet and American filmmakers of World War II met in Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles in February to compare notes for the first time since that war ended. The U.S.—Soviet Filmmakers Conference was sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution and the U.S.—CIS Private Sector Exchange Initiative of the U.S. Information Agency (USIA).

POW/MIA INDOCHINA 1861-1991 ...

Is the title of an annotated bibliography of more than 300 non-fiction works dealing with prisoners of war or those missing in action, which has been updated and expanded to include works with references to collaborators, turncoats and deserters. Compiled by

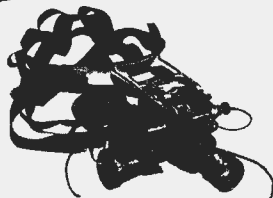
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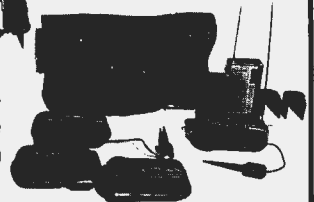
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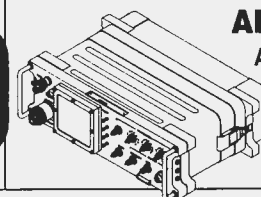
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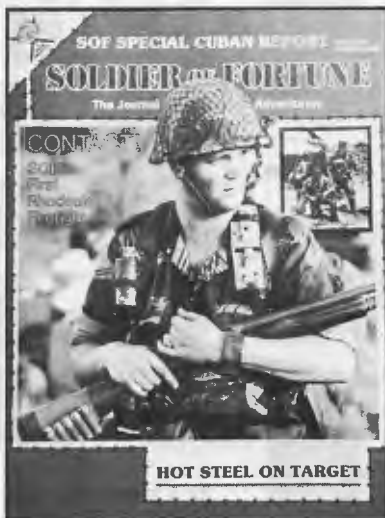
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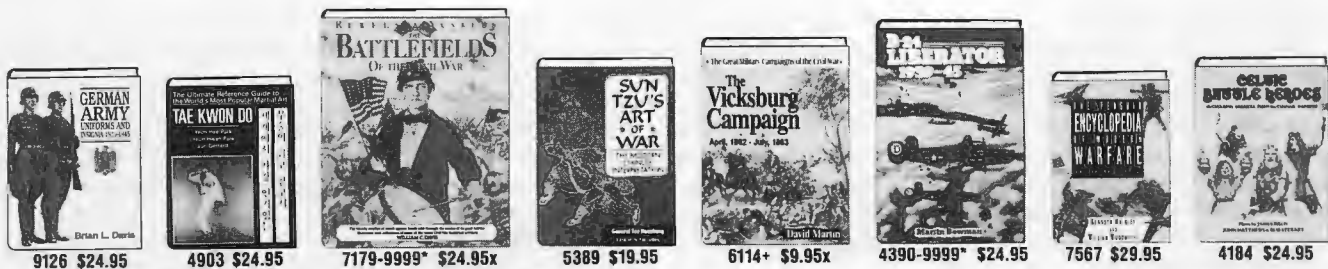
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COLT REORGANIZES ...

Colt's Manufacturing Co., the nation's seventh-largest gun producer, has filed for bankruptcy protection under Chapter 11. A \$10-million line of credit has been established with the Connecticut Development Authority and the Austrian bank Creditanstalt to give Colt's time to get it together with some promising new products.

YEAH, BUT DOES IT OVER-PENETRATE? ...

An electrothermal chemical gun being evaluated by the Defense Nuclear Agency broke the world's record for muzzle energy in a 27 February test, firing a 55-pound projectile at about the speed of a 7.62 NATO bullet, with a muzzle energy of more than 14 million joules (that's more than 18,983,000 foot-pounds, in case you want to compare it to your favorite reload). A medium-size car traveling at 100 mph carries the energy of roughly 1 million joules.

OUR BUDDY, SADDAM ...

Documents released by Represent-

tative Henry B. Gonzales (D-Texas) indicate that Iraq was still receiving shared intelligence from the United States as late as two months before the attack on Kuwait. The rationale was that supplying Iraq limited information from satellite data showing the

socialism, a military confrontation between any of the Western powers and the former Soviet Union or its satellites seems more and more remote. But that is not to say it is time to declare a fat "peace dividend" and retire the armed forces, because although the former

USSR was a potential enemy, it was not the *only* potential enemy. What scenarios for armed conflict seem possible in today's world? Here's a list of seven presently being bandied about in the Pentagon: • An even bigger Gulf War, with a re-armed, more aggressive Iraq • War with a nuclear-armed North Korea • War between Russia and NATO, touched off when a new Russian regime tries to assert control over other former Soviet republics • A Filipino revolution in which hundreds of Americans are seized as hostages, thousands of other American civilians threatened • Chaos in Panama when national police/Panama Defense Force join with narco-terrorists to seize canal • A new Soviet-like threat when a new coalition of nations threatens U.S. interests on a global scale



disposition of Iranian forces "provided the United States with access to the highest levels of Iraq's government."

NOW WHAT ...

Now that the Soviet Union has collapsed under the weight of its own

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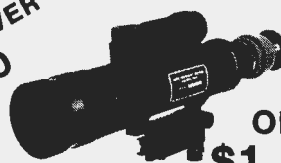
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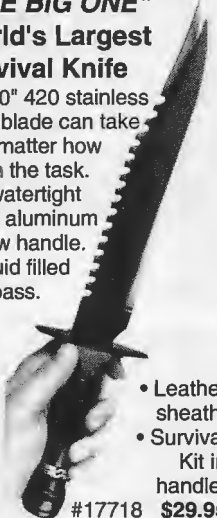
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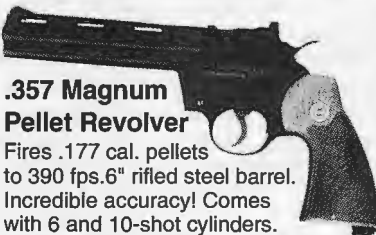


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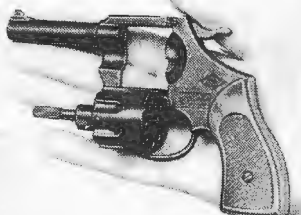
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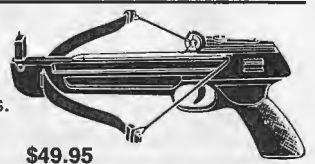
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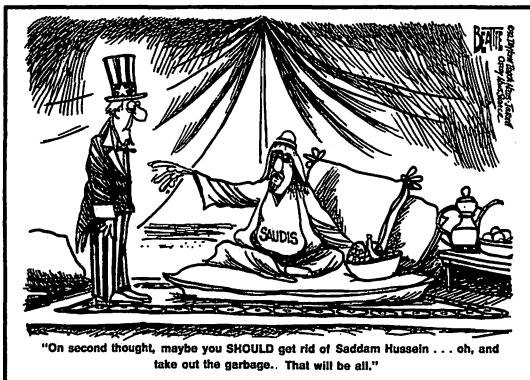
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TRUTH ABOUT FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION ...

I just got back to Canada three months ago after spending nine months in the French Foreign Legion.

I am 22 years old, and went to France in hopes of becoming the world's toughest elite soldier, as portrayed by many books and articles. I don't know where people get their information, but the Legion I saw was definitely not the Legion of Hollywood. The Foreign Legion is nothing more than a band of pseudo-soldiers, using all France's seconds and hand-me-downs. What I joined was an untrained, ass-backwards, unorganized clusterfuck that loves to give ruffians and criminals new identities and sing about it.



All I can say is I hope anyone hoping to venture in that direction thinks again and sticks to the United States Marine Corps, which I also have tried but cannot enter because of my Canadian citizenship.

Joel Neale
Vernon, British Columbia

SERE-IOUS PROBLEM ...

Reading Mr. Kcin's article, "Save our SERE" [April '92], exposed my own lack of any SERE training. Indeed, the only person I know who has had such training got it only because he was fortunate enough to be selected for Army Ranger School.

As my job as an officer is to lead my men through any and all situations, this is a particularly sore point. Beyond the universal "only give your name, rank, serial number and date of birth," I have little to professionally offer my troops. (Of course, I can always recommend SOF!)

In particular, I worry about proper conduct as a prisoner. In the survival mode, I can count on help from my own natural/animal instincts. But in a POW setting, I fear I would be at a loss. I doubt we can expect magnanimity from radical Arabs or die-hard North Koreans.

I have read varying accounts of captivity and have been fed diverging standards of conduct from the military. On the one hand, we should resist to our last breath, give them no information, refuse to participate in anti-American propaganda, attempt escape at every turn. On the other, I'm told, "If you try to be John Wayne, you'll just be killed. Tell them what they want (within reason), sign what they want, say what they want ... at least you'll live, and your country will forgive you ..." (that's paraphrased from a lecture by an Army officer). You can understand my confusion.

How should a soldier of the United States armed forces conduct himself as a prisoner of war? And, in particular, what are the responsibilities of a commissioned officer? An Army-wide SERE course is needed to teach the basics, if nothing else.

Anthony M. Smith
Pennsylvania
Army National Guard

ding skills into civilian life.

From what I've read and seen, the U.S. soldier is given minimum training with small arms. He/she is even told when they should load their weapon, which does not encourage independent thought or use of common sense.

I recently watched a demonstration of FN's P-90 weapon, and it seemed clear to me that the hit potential, in burst/full-auto fire for the novice shooter/soldier will be greater than ever before with the up-and-coming generation of military small arms. It isn't hard to imagine a future military where they can hand a city-bred novice shooter a weapon that requires little to no training in order to hit (or hose) the target. The burst or fully automatic setting will help counter firefight stress and aiming error (also known as a lack of marksmanship training).

Just think of the savings in ammo cost, whether through lack of a training program or generally long periods of peace between conflicts. Any idiot will be able to operate these weapons with some efficiency to get the desired result. Once their tour of duty is over, the ex-soldier can return to society as someone conditioned to be a good subject and unlikely to actively defend our Second Amendment against government incursion.

M.J. Royer
Mesa, Arizona

TO TRUST OR NOT TO TRUST ...

Has it ever occurred to your readers that the same media — *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Time* magazine, Sally Jessy Raphael, Phil Donahue, ABC, NBC, CBS, et al, who consistently bombard us with cautions not to trust our government, also wants us to give our guns to that same untrustworthy government? 'Nuff said, Mack Flanders
Granbury, Texas

NO GUNFIGHTERS WANTED ...

Although I agree with Mr. Stroff's gunfighting school concept in "A Few Good Shots" [February '92], I'd be very surprised to see it come to fruition. I believe the government doesn't want marksmanship skills taught. I suspect our government doesn't want its soldiers to take marksmanship/gun han-

PUTTING TERRORISTS FIRST ...

I've been doing independent research on the brucellosis disease which threatens virtually all Yellowstone Park ungulates and those in three surrounding states. Montana decided to reclassify bison as game animals and use hunters to control them as they drift north. Wyoming does not agree, and has had to destroy close to \$1.5 million worth of beef in two herds in the Dubois area. At this time, the Park Service claims brucellosis is a native organism and must be protected!?

Last year in west Yellowstone there was an incident involving representatives of Fund For Animals and people representing one of the methods of trying to deal with brucellosis. One of the protesters smeared blood from a bison on the face of a hunter. This act exposed the hunter who was smeared

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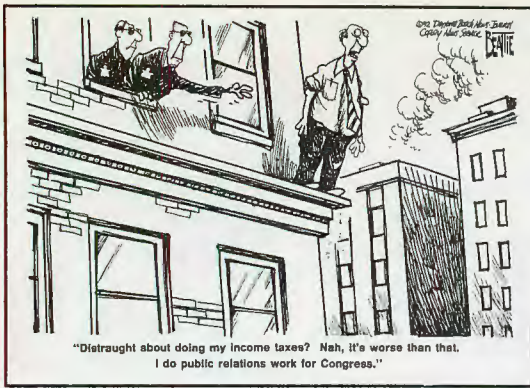
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disinformation, organizations like Fund For Animals, the National Park Service and the media have obscured efforts to control the disease.

Jack Henderson
Great Falls, Montana

Please print the addresses or phone numbers of the organizations mentioned in Galen Geer's "Animal Terrorists" [February '92] that are fighting anti-hunters/animal rights terrorists. It is important for all gun owners to get involved on all fronts and fight the wide array of enemies who are committed to taking away our guns.

Richard L. Fowler
Dayton, Ohio

We're happy to oblige. You may contact the following:

Putting People First
4401 Connecticut Ave. N.W.
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(202) 364-7277

Safari Club International
4800 W. Gates Pass Road
Tucson, AZ 85745
(602) 620-1220

Wildlife Legislative Fund
801 Kingsmill Parkway
Columbus, OH 43229
(614) 888-4868

FINAL WORD ON SERBS AND CROATS? ...

We've received so many letters from people on both sides of the Serb/Croat issue that Colonel Alex M. S. McColl, our Military Affairs Editor and resident philosopher, felt compelled to write a reply:

This may be uncharacteristic peacemongering, but we have had quite enough of the kind of thinking that says, "The damn Croats (Serbs) murdered my grandfather, therefore it is my duty to murder any Croat (Serb) that I encounter, thus laying a sacred obligation on his grandson to murder my grandson or granddaughter ... " And then people wonder why places where this kind of thinking prevails are still at the Third World level of social and economic development. Do reasonable justice to individuals and leave the larger vengeance to a higher power. Just as the Holy Church has been preaching for nigh unto 2,000 years.

— Alex McColl

and the person who smeared him to possible transmission of the disease.

A Montana State Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks brochure warns that every park buffalo should be considered to be infected. The results of blood tests showed over 50% to be potentially infected and newer numbers show more like 65% potentially infected. The department also advises people dealing with the buffalo to always wear protective gloves when dressing carcasses or when handling viscera.

Brucellosis can be transmitted through unbroken skin. The organism seems to be more easily transmitted than AIDS. The concern of controlling this disease is not totally economic, vis-a-vis the cattle industry. By spreading uninformed opinion, half-truth and

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PHONY VETS ...

Regarding Susan Katz Keating's "Only The Phony," [October '91]: The Veterans Affairs' Office of Inspector General is assigned responsibility to conduct criminal investigations into crimes against VA facilities and programs. This includes fraudulent use of the "VA" name and doctored or fraudulent documentation of military service or eligibility for veterans benefits.

During the summer of 1990, this office conducted an investigation into counterfeit VA certificates of service (issued to vets who lose their DD-214s). Alien residents (foreign visitors) were purchasing these phony documents on the streets (paying up to \$5,000). These purchasers would then apply for New York City vendor licenses which had been reserved for veterans (the vendor licenses were not available to anyone else without cost and a lengthy waiting period). After our investigation, over 36 individuals were arrested during a VA sting operation.

I find it very distasteful when veterans are deprived of the benefits set aside for them by impostors. If there is anything we can look into, please let the above reporter know that we are interested in pursuing these cases. We need more specific information regarding her allegations to conduct an inquiry. I can assure you that our office regards these counterfeit operations

as a serious insult to the VA and all Americans who have served their country.

Bruce T. Sackman
Javier Soto
Department of Veterans Affairs
New York, New York

SENDING MONEY TO HANOI ...

On the national news the other night Peter Jennings stated that the State Department has made a "deal" with the communist dictators in Hanoi that the U.S. government will give \$3 million in humanitarian aid to the communists in return for their help in searching for the remains of U.S. servicemen missing from the Vietnam War. What a joke! The commies must be laughing themselves silly — once again, a gullible, stupid U.S. government has been suckered into believing Hanoi will keep their word.

It's time everyone who disagrees with this foolishness begin writing the State Department, the president and Congress. We can't let these jerks get away with giving money to a bunch of soon-to-be-extinct commies, when we have our own people and veterans who don't have a job and are sleeping in the streets.

S.L. Coker
Galveston, Texas

MUTUAL ADMIRATION ...

If you can hitch a ride to Saudi, sleep on hotel floors and report the Gulf War action so superbly, I can surely pony up a few bucks to try to keep you solvent. Your competence is much appreciated.

Roy Giles
Bellingham, Washington

Tell RKB there is no loss of honor in requesting assistance. A wise person uses all assets available; only by banding together will individuals be victorious against common enemies. As able, I will continue to support this battle.

Thank you for the opportunity to do something in return for the years of knowledge and insight I have received from SOF. I've read and kept every issue ever published. *Semper fi*,
Wayne A. Corbin
Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania

I and the SOF staff wish to thank all SOFers who gave to our First Amendment Legal Fund. Every dollar helps us continue to fight the good fight, including battling with pond-scum bloodsucking attorneys. SOFers can send contributions to Omega First Amendment Legal Fund, c/o Carson-Thomas & Associates, P.C., 1790 30th St., Suite 418, Boulder, CO 80301. Donations are NOT tax deductible. —RKB

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WORLD SITREP

4 **ARMENIA**
Fighting continues between Armenia and Azerbaijan; former Soviet troops being withdrawn ...

2 **ALGERIA**
Ruling council shuts down fundamentalist Islamic party, saying there was no place for it in Algerian politics, as they had used violence to attain their ends ...

1 **AFGHANISTAN**
Kabul under continual rocket attacks by rebels; U.N. "all parties" peace talks underway in mid-April ...

5 **CANADA**
Is withdrawing all troops from Europe, drawing down total forces to 75,000 ...

3 **ARGENTINA**
Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires destroyed by car-bomb blast, killing at least 20, injuring more than 250 ...

6 **CHAD**
France redeploys additional 150 paratroops (for total of 1,370), due to continuing unrest ...

7 **COLOMBIA**
Leftist rebels rule out a cease-fire during peace talks ...

8 **EL SALVADOR**
Leftist rebels warn that peace process could unravel if government clamps down on peasants who have seized land ...

9 **ESTONIA**
Customs officials in Tallinn seize 15,000 new Makarov pistols being smuggled by Moscow crime syndicate via Estonia through Finland — to Ireland ...

10 **INDIA**
Has hired 50 former Soviet nuclear experts ... Sikh militants kill 29 in retaliation for their voting in February elections ...

11 **INDONESIA**
Sacks three senior military officials, moves to discipline 11 others in wake of international criticism over November incident in which troops fired on demonstrators in East Timor ...

12 **IRAQ**
Investigation team confirms Saddam is destroying Scud missile stockpiles as per U.N. demands ...

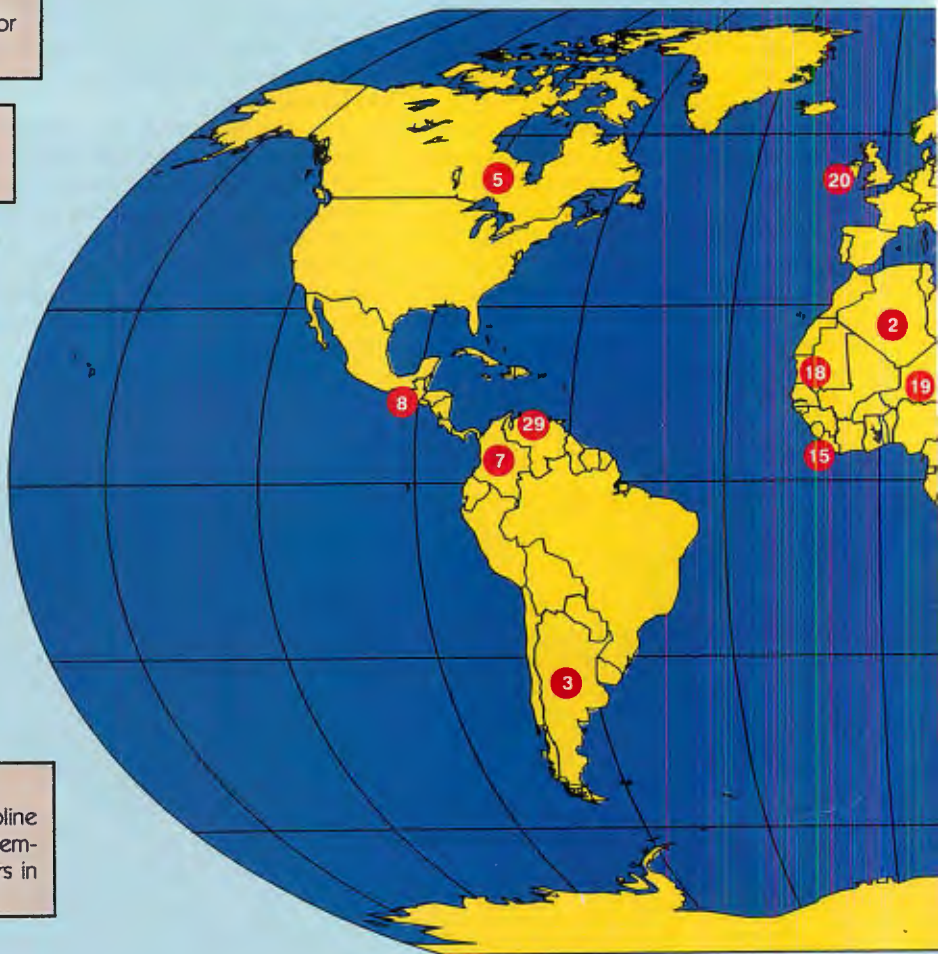
13 **ISRAEL**
Palestinian slashes people at random with homemade sword on Tel Aviv street — killing two and wounding 20 before being shot by policeman ...

16 **LITHUANIA**
Former Soviet troops in process of being withdrawn

17 **MACEDONIA**
Breakaway republic's new draft law to form army of 30,000 has Greece upset; EC will probably recognize new government, but Greece says it can't call itself Macedonia ...

14 **KENYA**
Anti-government riots continue; no evidence of change in sight ...

15 **LIBERIA**
Charles Taylor executes Gen. Sam Larto for shooting member of rival Johnson's group ... elections scheduled for August ... Libyan leader Muammar Khadafi, who trained Taylor's original forces, pledges to support peace process ...



31

ZAIRE

Pro-democracy protests in Kinshasa draw fire; government says unidentified attackers killed young policeman ... opposition groups call for U.N. peace-keeping troops, intervention to oust Mobutu or reconvene constitutional convention ... government troops attack insurgent bases near Ugandan border, driving 30,000 refugees into Uganda ...

30

YUGOSLAVIA

Citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina vote for independence in referendum ...

28

TURKEY

Has signed military cooperation agreement with Romania, to help reorganize Romanian army; already has similar agreements signed with Albania and Bulgaria ...

29

VENEZUELA

Government survives coup attempt, grants itself emergency powers ...

27

SUDAN

Gen. Bashir promises amnesty for rebels who surrender, and a system whereby south will not be under same Islamic law as Moslem north ...

26

SOMALIA

Multifaceted civil war and anarchy; chief players are interim president Ali Mahdi Mohammed and military leader General Mohammed Farrah Aidid — clan against clan, family against family, brother against brother ...

25

SAUDI ARABIA

Is buying more than 1,000 Canadian-built GM LAVs in various configurations, through U.S. Foreign Military Sales contract ...

24

RUSSIA

Former Soviet congress deputies met at collective farm outside Moscow, in defiance of Russian authorities, to call for restoration of Soviet Union; companion rally in front of Kremlin attracted little popular support ...

23

PHILIPPINES

Estimated 180 New People's Army guerrillas kill 37, wound 22 government troopers in worst defeat since 1983 in Surigao del Sur province — less than a week after President Aquino claimed government forces had "broken the back" of the NPA ... Philippines government complains U.S. Navy is leaving nothing behind at Subic — U.S. responds everything left at Clark AFB was looted ...

22

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Has passed new maritime law, one provision of which claims Chinese sovereignty over the unoccupied Senkaku islands, 150km northwest of Okinawa — also claimed by Taiwan and Japan — islands are believed to have large oil deposits ... Warns Inner Mongolians not to even think about joining up with Mongolia ...

19

NIGER

Plans for transition to elective democracy, and lack of pay, cause mutiny of government troops; political parties, unions call for general strike ...

18

MAURITANIA

First-ever elections held in March; opposition boycotted — ruling party won 52 of 79 seats ...

20

NORTHERN IRELAND

After planting three bombs in London — two of which exploded, injuring 29 — IRA says it plans further bombings to disrupt this year's British election ...

21

NORTH KOREA

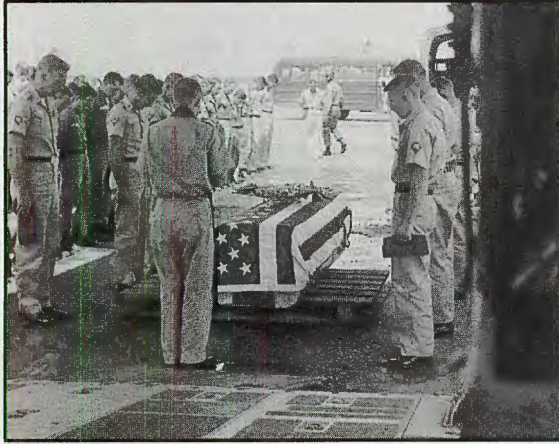
Has increased antiaircraft batteries around nuke complex at Yongbyong from five to 40 ...



COMBAT CRAFT

by Louis Awerbuck

When Theory Meets Practice



"... we will miss him ... he was one of the best target shots on the range ..."

Photo: U.S. Army

Combat is a fight between individuals or groups. *Craft* refers to the fusion of manual skill

and mental acumen necessary for increasing your odds of success in a combat situation.

Surviving combat depends primarily on one thing — preparation. Only the bad guys survive on luck alone. Manual dexterity, mental preparation and the ability to act ruthlessly are absolute prerequisites for survival.

There are sound concepts and techniques for effective armed fighting — usually learned the hard

way. And there are myriad misconceptions *about* fighting, easily learned from books and in classrooms. The sound concepts, however, have a way of revealing themselves to you a second or two after the fight sparks.

Thus, training in the combat crafts is

a process of learning skills and un-learning misconceptions, *before* the fight begins.

A field of battle often bears little resemblance to training scenarios — essentially for two reasons:

(a) It's virtually impossible to visualize combat until you've had the dubious pleasure of being used for a target, and because:

(b) Much of the training being conducted these days doesn't adequately prepare a trainee for the brutal reality of shooting at hostile human beings — usually while taking fire from same.

Some training gurus would teach us to gallop into combat without fear because our hearts are pure, but in the real-life confrontation you *will* experience fear, unless you suffer from some mental disorder or chemical dependency. The trick is to acknowledge fear and control it by forcefully overriding it with *anger*. But the fear will be there



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— brave men are not devoid of fear: They are simply men who override their fear to do what it is the situation demands.

Having overridden fear itself, there is nothing else to fear, right? No — there's probably only one mental state more self-defeating in a fight than fear — that of unfounded confidence stemming from unrealistic training. It can backfire in a situation where you must first deal with the fact that almost from the moment you entered the fray, the scenario didn't bear the slightest resemblance to what your guru outlined on the firing range.

While you may have perfected the manual dexterity essential for reflexive weapons manipulation, the tactics and techniques of applying this manipulative skill (and marksmanship problems you will encounter) are vastly different on the street than on a training range.

Once an armed confrontation begins, your primary objective is to leave the contest with no more body cavities than you had upon entering it. Cover and/or concealment are absolute priorities for your survival — but acquiring them is seldom taught, and for this reason they are seldom used in a conflict. It doesn't matter how well you shoot if you afford your opponent an easy target and he shoots first. Perhaps this reticence to use cover is the "stand-up-and-shoot-like-a-man" syn-



In the 1930s, these shooters from the El Centro, California, pistol team were some of the best there were. But shooting like the little men on the trophies, and at paper targets, will no longer cut it. Such training may get you medals and trophies — but on the street it can get you killed.

Photo: U.S. Border Patrol

drome — i.e., *I don't want to look like a wimp ...*

If you don't use cover, treachery and the dirtiest tactics you can come up with, you are likely to die. Nobody but a fool stands out in the open "like a man" to present his enemy with an easy target.

Another dangerous fallacy is that you can count on a "quick search" of an area to secure it. Slow it down: Haste can get you shot in the back when you exit a "secure" room.

A third misconception comes from the confusion between firing range marksmanship and battle accuracy. It doesn't take much to achieve marksmanship on a piece of paper, but shooting hostile human beings requires specific skills. A paper target doesn't shoot back or move erratically and it doesn't try to outsmart you.

A fourth difference between range shooting and gunfighting is how unrealistic target distances are on a typical range. While long-distance marksmanship is, as one police magazine author stated, "a confidence builder," such exercises are worthless if the officer can't hit a human assailant at 6 feet. If target systems, terrain and scenarios don't accurately simulate reality, the trainee will be in a totally unfamiliar environment when he has to face the real thing. If, in an unfamiliar environment, he now must think instead of running on trained reflex, it will all be over before it's started.

A final topic worthy of mention here concerns ballistics. To be sure, ballistics are an important consideration.

Continued on page 68

BLACK HILLS AMMUNITION



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FULL AUTO

Text & Photo by Peter G. Kokalis



There is no handgun cartridge with a more fascinating, albeit somewhat complex, history than the .45 Colt. When the Model 1873 revolver for which this cartridge was chambered was first introduced, the ammunition had thin copper cases with inside central cup-anvil priming, based on Colonel S.V. Benet's 1868 Frankford Arsenal design. When unfired, these cartridges appear to be of rimfire type. A peculiar double crimp just below the case head holds the internal cup-anvil in place. This was the second centerfire cartridge adopted by the U.S. government; the first being the .50-caliber cartridge for the U.S. Navy Model 1867 Remington single-shot "rolling block" pistol.

The original propellant charge was 40 grains of FFG black powder behind a 255-grain inside-lubricated lead bullet traveling at 815 fps. It was the most potent handgun cartridge of its day provided great execution on both sides of the line.

The .45 Colt cartridge lasted but a brief time as an official government type. In 1875, the Smith & Wesson Schofield revolver was adopted along with its .45 cartridge case of shorter length (1.110 inches compared to Colt's 1.285 inches). Apparently to distinguish it from the shorter S&W round, many referred to the M1873 cartridge as the ".45 Long Colt," a name many still know it by today.

To further compound the confusion, the Colt New Service Revolver was adopted in 1909, together with ammunition manufactured only in U.S. government arsenals that was practically identical to the .45 Colt cartridge, except for the important feature of a case rim with an increased diameter (0.563-inch instead of 0.512-inch) that precluded its employment in earlier black powder revolvers chambered for the .45 Colt round. Manufacture of the Model 1909 ammunition was discontinued in 1911, when the Colt Automatic Pistol was adopted.

The .45 Colt round has outlasted both of these two early competitors. It is still a very fine cartridge, with great wound ballistics potential, especially so with a new bullet recently made available for it. Early M1873 revolvers had groove diameters of 0.454-inch and sometimes even greater. More modern specimens have groove diameters of only 0.452-inch. Slugging the bore of our test piece indicated it was no exception to the latter trend, and had a 0.452-inch groove diameter.

The bullet most commonly associated with this caliber is a 255-grain lead-alloy roundnose bullet with a flat tip. Current factory loadings drive this bullet at about 840 fps from a 5.5-inch barrel. Factory ammunition conforms to SAAMI specifications, which stipulate a maximum average chamber pressure of 15,900 CUP (Copper Units

Twenty-year-old Hornady 250-grain .45 bullet (left) expanded only slightly. New Hornady HP/XTP (right) bullet will expand to .68 caliber and penetrate deeply. It brings the .45 Colt cartridge right up to the top row in wound ballistics potential.

of Pressure) and a maximum permissible individual pressure of 18,300 CUP. This to preclude damage to older revolvers, although modern single action types such as the Ruger can safely withstand 25,000 CUP. However, we don't need either high pressures or high velocities to make this or any other handgun round effective. We need properly designed expanding bullets at moderate velocities.

Twenty years ago, Hornady made a stab at designing a 250-grain 0.452-inch Jacketed Hollow Point (JHP) bullet for the .45 Colt cartridge. Unfortunately, the cavity of the lead-alloy-tipped bullet was too shallow and the jacket had no serrations. As a consequence, when driven into soft tissue by no more than 9.8 grains of Hercules Unique, which generates a very moderate 920 fps, the exposed tip peels back to the edge of the jacket and shears off, usually as a perfectly concentric ring. The mouth of the jacket opens up only slightly to no more than .50 caliber. This bullet will penetrate deeply — somewhat more than the 20 inches maximum we need. Still, it doesn't overpenetrate like most of the

hard-cast, Keith-type semiwadcutters which all go 25 inches or more in soft tissue (although, this will do nicely for larger than man-sized game, such as deer).

Winchester's more recent Silvertip .45 Colt round is fairly effective on human targets. This 225-grain JHP bullet travels at 815 — 820 fps (from a 6-inch barrel), expands to .70 caliber and penetrates about 12.5 inches of soft tissue. That's quite a bit better than the 185-grain .45 ACP Silvertip which overexpands to .80 caliber, but penetrates less than 10 inches of soft tissue.

However, with the introduction of Hornady's 250-grain HP/XTP (Hollow Point/Extreme Terminal Performance) 0.452-inch-diameter bullet (catalog No. 45200) we finally have a really effective expanding projectile for the .45 Colt cartridge. This bullet has a truncated-cone shape, with pronounced crimping cannellure and moderately deep cavity. The tip of its copper-alloy jacket is serrated.

When charged with 9.8 grains of Unique, the HP/XTP leaves the muzzle of our Cimarron Arms Artillery Model at about 920 fps, and its performance in soft tissue is excellent. The bullet expands consistently to about .68 caliber, with the jacket peeling back in six segments, leaving 12 sharp points around the expanded circumference to slice and dice. There is no fragmentation.

It is anticipated that this bullet will penetrate 16 inches of soft tissue and more. On occasion, the jacket will split open to its base, along one of the grooves impressed into the jacket material by the barrel's rifling lands. When this happens, the jacket will usually separate from the lead-alloy core. A lower velocity would probably inhibit this problem. Black Hills Ammunition (Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 5070, Rapid City, SD 57709; phone: 605-348-5150) is currently offering .45 Colt ammunition with this excellent bullet.

Reloaders would be hard pressed to surpass Hercules Unique as a propellant for the .45 Colt cartridge. It remains one of the most popular and versatile powders available for handgun rounds — and rifles or shotguns as well. Unfortunately, it's a flake-type powder and does not meter well from most powder measures. However, any charge weight of Unique under 10 grains should be safe in a modern version of the Colt Single Action.

Up until sometime following World War II, .45 Colt cases were of so-called "balloon-head" construction. Subsequently, all have been of solid-head design, which is stronger but has a slightly reduced powder capacity. Only modern cases should be used for reloading. ❧

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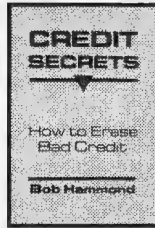
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Attend any knife show or visit any cutlery shop and you will be faced with a bewildering number of choices regarding knives and other bladed weapons suitable for personal defense. Let Duncan Long help you sort through the maze with this practical analysis of the myriad of edged weapons available to the modern soldier and citizen alike. Besides the most popular fighting knives made by today's leading makers, Long discusses the pros and cons of bowies, bayonets, commando daggers, kukris, switchblades, butterfly knives, machetes, samurai swords, battle axes, razors, screwdrivers, meat cleavers, belt-buckle blades and much more. Find out which are best suited for home defense, concealment, battlefield conditions and other self-defense scenarios, as well as the best fighting techniques, the worst fighting myths and the all-important but little-discussed legalities of knives and their use. This book can save you time and money – and perhaps even your life. 8 1/2 x 11, hardcover, photos, illus., 128 pp. **\$25.00**



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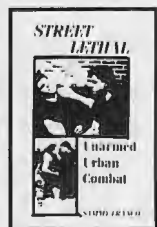
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BATTLE BLADES

by Greg Walker

Jim Bowie's Legacy



Inspired by Jim Bowie's older brother Rezin's original blade pattern, Jerry Fisk offers this beautiful yet functional custom bowie with single guard and exotic wood handle. Fisk is one of America's leading custom bowie knife makers.
Photo: Weyer International

There is perhaps no more original American blade form than the bowie knife, a large hunting blade made famous as a man-killer by Colonel James Bowie way back in the late 1820s.

Designed and made in part by the colonel's brother Rezin, the weapon was crafted as a hunting knife. But one day Rezin lent his knife to his younger brother James, who proceeded to use it as a last-ditch defensive weapon during a duel-turned-gang fight. The rest, as they say, is history.

After James cut down a number of men with one of several knives he is said to have carried, any large blade knife came to be known as a "Bowie." However, the term *bowie knife* is now generic: it covers a huge array of designs and patterns. There are Confederate bowies, California bowies, European bowies and English bowies. There are double-edged bowies, spear-point bowies, clip-point bowies and even serrated bowies.

In short, there is no firm format defining what a bowie knife is supposed to be, although an elegant clip-point pattern and sturdy double-guard are most often associated with American-style examples. To see many models of the bowie knife, take a look at a fine photo album on the subject, *The Antique Bowie Knife Book*, a very limited 1989 edition offered at \$250 from Museum Publishing Co., Conyers, Georgia; phone: 1-800-241-3664.

Modern bowies have enjoyed nearly a decade's worth of popularity, thanks to custom knife maker Bill Bagwell. When he was *Soldier Of Fortune's* blade columnist, Bagwell deftly used his writing talent and skill as a maker of exceptional fighting bowies to re-establish this classic blade form in the eyes of readers worldwide. Soon, everyone seemed to be offering versions of the bowie knife to an eager market — some better than others in terms of quality, function and performance. Bagwell deserves credit for the bowie's rebirth.

I've enjoyed and carried a bowie knife of one sort or another for years. Truly big models such as Western's old M-49 (once available for \$49.95 at the PX) are excellent camp tools when it comes to clearing a tent site, splitting firewood, sharpening a marshmallow stick or building a hasty emergency shelter during a storm.

Blades like the M-49 are best carried on a combat harness or tied to one's backpack, as they are somewhat both-

ersome if strapped to your pants belt. Western's success with its bowie lay in both the knife's design appeal and in the quality of carbon steel the maker used. It wasn't magical or expensive; it was just good. Western's craftsmen applied a suitable heat-treatment and the M-49 became one of the company's all-time best sellers.

Besides Bagwell, whose Damascus blades go for \$100 per blade-inch, there are other custom makers who turn out fine bowie knives by anyone's standards.

My favorite maker of forged fighting bowies is Jerry Fisk (Route 1, Box 41, Lockesburg, AR 71846), whose 9.5-inch blades are fast, light and lethal. A Fisk bowie is wonderfully strong, exceptionally sharp, capable of inflicting massive damage, yet easily carried due to its weight, balance and fine sheath work. They have an average price of roughly \$450, with a two-year waiting period before delivery.

Pat Crawford (205 N. Center, West Memphis, AR 72301) is a stock-removal maker who specializes in a wide variety of bowie patterns. Pat normally keeps several of any one knife on hand, and does one of the best Rezin Bowie working replicas I've seen to date. Again, you'll be looking at a cost of between \$350 and \$500 for a Crawford blade.

If you're not interested in waiting for an expensive custom bowie, a host of alternative production models are readily available. Some feature carbon steels, others are ground from stainless. Where one is hollow-ground, its competing cohort may be flat-ground. Blade patterns are generally clip- or spear-point in design, with most blade lengths running at between 9 inches and 10 inches, a size Bagwell touts as the ideal blade length.

Handle materials vary from synthetic rubbers like Kraton to stag and exotic hardwoods. Guards come in the shape of brass ovals, double steel tines, integral synthetic molds, or single-tine stampings. Sheath work is most often leather, although a few makers are offering Kydex scabbards in its stead. Prices range from \$50 to \$275 for most production bowies available currently.

Personally, I would pay no more than \$200 for a production bowie, as

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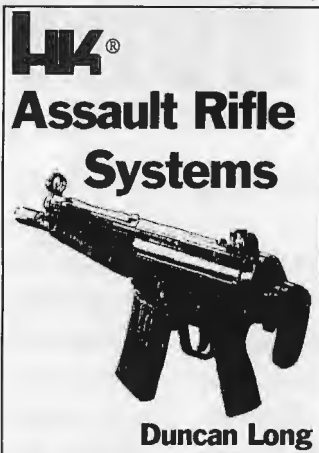
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additional costs are primarily due to import fees, marketing campaigns, advertising programs and brand-name association. Some of the better bowies evaluated by "Battle Blades" are:

- The "Teton Bowie" from Seki City, Japan, has a 9.5-inch blade ground from BAUS stainless steel. The knife features a brass oval guard, textured Kraton handle, brass-lined lanyard hole and the classic clip-point blade pattern. Housed in a black leather sheath with its single strap-'n'-snap security system, this is one of the best buys of 1992 at \$79 from the Cutlery Shoppe; phone: 1-800-231-1271.

- AMK has introduced its "Special Warfare"-line, featuring a wonderfully aerodynamic bowie pattern designed by Al Mar. The SpecWar Model No. 2 features a 7 7/8-inch clip-point blade ground from AM6 stainless steel, double brass guard, exclusive gray Titanwood handle scales and brass-lined lanyard hole. Sheathed in black Cordura, suggested retail for the Model No. 2 is \$195. For ordering information, you can contact AMK at 503-635-9229.

- Fox Knives are available through Catoctin Cutlery (phone: 301-824-7416). A recent evaluation by Steve Dick, *Fighting Knives* magazine's outdoor editor, showed Fox models No. 684 and No. 685 to be outstanding bowies available at a suggested retail of \$80 each. Made in Italy, the 684 offers a bolo-style point format; the 685 features a traditional clip-point pattern. These are big knives — the 685 is issued to Italian naval helicopter crews. These are also two of the best European bowies coming into our country.

My favorite bowie originates from the Civil War era. Made in Tennessee, the knife has a simple stag handle, with a hand-fashioned oval guard and 9.5-inch carbon steel blade. It is unmarked, flat-ground and still as functional today as when it was made. The pattern is ageless — it's a fighting bowie, lean in the body and fast in the hand.

The bowie knife remains a viable, effective and happily American working knife. Once you've taken a good one in hand, it's hard to forget it. As an all-around camp tool, it's a hard knife to beat — as a combat knife, it is by itself deadly.

Just ask those who ran into one of Carlson's Raiders during World War II, or ask a Ranger of the Korean War, or a Green Beret who served in Vietnam, or the SEALs of Urgent Fury, or the Recon Marine who took out two Iraqis one night while crawling around in an enemy defensive position during Operation Desert Storm.

Colonel Bowie, ya' done good. ☞

HIGH-CAPACITY LIGHTWEIGHT

GRENDEL'S PACESETTING P-30

BY RAGNAR BENSON

Although not a new idea, large-capacity magazines are in vogue and in the news. Large-capacity magazines give more firepower, but often at the cost of adding bulk and weight — and poor ergonomics — to the weapon. This is not the case with the new Grendel P-30. This pistol has dimensions similar to a Beretta or H&K 9mm handgun, along with excellent handling properties, yet holds 30 rounds of .22 Winchester Magnum Rimfire (WMR) ammo.

At 30 rounds per magazine, with ammo having muzzle velocity of 1,450 fps and delivering 186 foot-pounds of energy, one could easily conclude that if a second magazine were required they would be in a war, not a firefight. Thirty rounds, for those who haven't thought about it, leaves 13 shots extra after the opposing owner of



Salient feature of Grendel is its capacity to hold 30 rounds of .22 WMR ammo. Like grip frame, magazine is made of synthetic.

Continued on page 70

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR GRENDEL P-30 SERIES PISTOL

	P-30	P-30L	P-30LM
Caliber	.22 WRF Magnum	.22 WRF Magnum	.22 WRF Magnum
Method of Operation	Inertial lock ("blowback")	Inertial lock ("blowback")	Inertial lock ("blowback")
Magazine Capacity	30 rounds	30 rounds	30 rounds
Overall Length	8.5 inches	10.5 inches	11.0 inches
Height	5.7 inches	5.7 inches	5.7 inches
Barrel Length	5.0 inches	8.0 inches	8.5 inches
Sight Radius	7.2 inches	8.88 inches	8.88 inches
Weight, Empty	21 ounces	29 ounces	30 ounces
Loaded Magazine	6 ounces	6 ounces	6 ounces
Price	\$225	\$280	\$295
Extra Magazine	\$15	\$15	\$15
Muzzle Brake	No	No	Yes
Sights	Fixed Rear Adjustable Blade Front	Fixed Rear Adjustable Blade Front	Fixed Rear Adjustable Blade Front
Manufacturer	Grendel Inc., P.O. Box 560909, Rockledge, FL 32956		
Technical Evaluation	Excellent trail and self-defense pistol offering high firepower.	Standard Grendel with longer barrel, providing greater accuracy and penetration. P-30L is laser-sight adaptable.	Standard 30-round Grendel, laser-sight adaptable, with longer barrel and muzzle brake.



APACHES DRAW

At precisely 0238 on 17 January 1991, laser-guided Hellfire missiles took out two early warning radar sites about 30 miles apart in western Iraq.

The shots fired in the predawn darkness signaled the start of Operation Desert Storm. These were among the most critical shots fired during the war, because they opened a "radar black corridor" into Iraq — a 12km-wide "interference free" approach to Baghdad.

Although U.S. Air Force, Navy and

Marine Corps planes captured the headlines on Desert Storm's first day by flying unscathed through this opening to bomb targets in Iraq, it was 16 Army AH-64 Apache pilots who drew the war's first blood. These Apaches were led to their targets by four high-tech electronic warfare helicopters, Air Force MH-53J Pave Lows, which guided the attack packages to within nine miles of their targets in the Iraqi desert — undetected and with pinpoint accuracy.

The honor of poking out the electronic eyes of Saddam's Soviet-supplied air defense fell to the 1st Battalion, 101st Aviation Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division, stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

What follows is an eyewitness account of that daring attack, as seen through the eyes of Apache pilots who flew the war's first combat mission, a task spanning 1,500 miles, taking 48 hours to complete.



ner in Vietnam. "There were a lot of aircraft coming over right after us," he recalled, "and if something happened that we didn't do our job 100%, a lot of people were going to get hurt."

From the moment on 18 August 1990 that Apache crews from the 1/101st arrived at King Abdul Aziz air base in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, Central Command (CENTCOM) was concerned about the possibility of thousands of Iraqi soldiers attacking across the border in tanks and Armored Personnel Carriers (APCs).

That's why the first C-5 Galaxy cargo plane to depart Fort Campbell carried tank-killing AH-64 Apache helicopters. The daring, predawn attack on Saddam's forward radar sites that opened Operation

CWO 4 Hall (left) and CWO 2 Orsburn with M16A2 rifles they carried in cockpit, in event of a shoot-down.

Photo: courtesy CWO 2 Orsburn

Desert Storm, however, would dispel the "single mission myth" of attack helicopters being only tank killers.

It took seven C-5s and 17 C-141s to move the 1/101st to Saudi Arabia — a total of 40 helicopters (19 of which were Apaches) and 340 soldiers, including 85 pilots.

Practice For Perfection

The helicopter crews had rehearsed their mission many times in Saudi Arabia using the sand tables and dry runs, with at least one "live" fire. CENTCOM wanted to make sure there were no surprises when the Apaches spread out and attacked the Iraqi radar sites with Hellfire missiles, rockets and 30mm cannons.

"It was just like they [Intel] told us it

Business end of a Pave Low, the high-tech USAF chopper that guided Apaches on strike. Photo: courtesy 1st Special Operations Wing, USAF

FIRST BLOOD

“A lot of guys were depending on us,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jerry Orsburn, who fired the Gulf War’s first shot. “We had to completely destroy those radar sites, so the Iraqis couldn’t notify Baghdad that the Air Force was coming. I remember thinking this was the most important thing I have done in my life.”

As Orsburn’s backseater, CWO 4 Lou Hall was the only combat veteran in the group, having served as a Huey doorgun-

Choppers Blast Corridor to Baghdad

by Dale B. Cooper



Lt. Col. Dick Cody, commander of 1/101st, seated middle front, and several of the young Apache pilots he handpicked for critical first mission.
Photo: courtesy 101st Aviation Regiment



and concrete roof of the bunker housing the Iraqi air force Interceptor Operations Center (IOC) near the town of Nukhayb, 150 miles inside Iraq.

Major Gregory Feest watched on the infrared multi-function displays in his dimly lit cockpit as the first bomb to be dropped during Operation Desert Storm penetrated the heavily camouflaged IOC. The bomb appeared on the screen Feest was watching just before it hit and “blew the doors” off the bunker. A key link between radar sites along the border and air defense headquarters in Baghdad, the IOC was one of several targets hit by F-117s from the 415th Tactical Fighter Squadron on the opening morning of the air campaign.

One of the most famous photographs of the war came from a Stealth attack on the command headquarters of the Iraqi air force in Baghdad. Like the IOC, it also took a direct hit from a GBU-27, the laser-guided, hardened and improved 2,000-pound bomb carried exclusively by the F-117s.

Firing Back Blind

As Feest, the pilot who also dropped the first bomb of Operation Just Cause in Panama, headed out toward western Iraq to hit another target, flak began to light up the sky like the Fourth of July. In addition to

The first round that would be fired in Desert Storm, by CWO 2 Orsburn and CWO 4 Hall.
Photo: courtesy CWO 2 Orsburn

would be,” remembered Orsburn. Nothing was left to chance. Apache crews were even told distances between specific targets. Each of the eight aircraft were preassigned primary and alternate targets to insure total destruction.

“We also had a systematic order of weapons to be fired,” CWO 2 Timothy L. Vincent explained. “Hellfires first, multipurpose rockets second and 30mm cannon third — then rockets again to clean up the site, take down the radar screens, wiring, etc.”

“One Apache could have knocked out

the site we hit,” noted Orsburn, who led a flight of four Apaches. But to guarantee total destruction, three other Apaches were sent along as insurance. Within four minutes, the radar sites were smoking piles of rubble. They had been connected to four Iraqi fighter bases and a hardened air defense operations-control center in southern Iraq.

To the Iraqi high command, the sudden loss of those early warning sites must have looked like a computer failure at first, but the enemy didn’t have long to ponder the problem, much less figure out who pulled the plug. Within minutes of those first attacks, a lone F-117A Nighthawk Stealth fighter sent a laser-guided 2,000-pound bomb slicing through the reinforced steel

heavy anti-aircraft fire similar to what we saw on Cable News Network broadcasts from over Baghdad, Feest also saw SAMs flying through his altitude in front and back of him, but none tracked him in his *Shabah*, or "Ghost," the Arabic nickname bestowed on his stealthy aircraft by the Saudis.

Planners at CENTCOM determined early on that a significant hole had to be punched in Iraq's radar umbrella, which extended hundreds of miles across the southern borders of Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. A corridor had to be opened in the protection if Coalition warplanes were to slip into Baghdad undetected on Day One of the air campaign.

Initially, planners suggested to General Norman Schwarzkopf that Air Force Pave Low helicopters drop U.S. Army Special Forces teams in the area and let them destroy the radar sites. "When we briefed General Schwarzkopf [at his headquarters in Riyadh in the middle of September] on that plan, he was very uncomfortable," remembered Air Force Colonel George Gray III, commander of the 1st Special Operations Wing.

"Schwarzkopf did not want any U.S.

commanding 1/101st, on the plan, Johnson asked if Cody thought he could do it. "Yeah," replied the Apache pilot.

"If we can get it conceptually approved, it will be based on you saying you can take them out 100%," Johnson warned. This would not be the last time Cody, Johnson or Gray would be asked to make such a guarantee.

Before returning to Riyadh to brief Schwarzkopf on the revised plan, a number of pivotal matters had to be resolved. Fuel was a critical consideration for the mission. "The Apaches don't have very long legs," Gray noted in a reference to their fuel capacity. Normally, that would be compensated by adding two auxiliary fuel pods — but that would leave only two wing hardpoints for Hellfire missile launchers for the 2.75-inch rocket pods.

Cody determined it would take one rack of Hellfires and two pods of rockets (totaling 38), as well as 1,100 rounds of 30mm chain-gun ammo to destroy the targets. The fuel problem was solved when 1st Lieutenant Tim DeVito, a pilot in the battalion, suggested the Apache could fly with one auxiliary fuel pod despite what

two targets," remembered Gray. "After I completed the briefing he looked me in the eye and asked, 'Can you guarantee me 100% success?'"

When Gray replied, "Yes!" Schwarzkopf grinned: "Okay, Colonel, then you can start the war."

Anatomy Of An Attack

The odyssey began on 14 January when Johnson ordered Task Force Normandy to fly 720 nautical miles from the 101st base in eastern Saudi Arabia to Al Jouf, a desolate outpost close to the Iraqi border.

Slipping into a staging area so close to the border was a problem. The task force flew into King Khalid Military City (KKMC) with no radio calls, and there refueled. However, the trick was getting from KKMC to Al Jouf without being seen or heard. But the force of nine Apaches, four Pave Lows and a Blackhawk hugged the flat terrain and slipped into the desert outpost unnoticed. That night, Cody briefed his crews on the mission. Giving them maps and showing them TR-1 (U-2) spy plane photos, Cody told his crews *where* they'd be going; but not even Cody knew *when* until the next day.



EXPECT NO MERCY

soldiers on the deck before H-hour," said Gray, a veteran of the Vietnam War, Grenada and Panama. So Schwarzkopf sent Gray and his boss, Army Col. Jesse Johnson, commander of U.S. Special Operations Command Central (SOCCENT), back to the drawing board.

Chopper Jocks Guarantee Their Work

As Gray and Johnson returned to King Fahd International Airport (up-country) where SOCCENT was located, they taxied past a row of Hellfire-equipped AH-64 Apaches from 1/101. Gray looked at Johnson and reflected, "You know, we could do this with Apaches. Let's see if Dick Cody is game." At this point, the mission was very hush-hush. Only a handful of people on Schwarzkopf's staff knew about it, including Johnson, Gray, and Lieutenant Colonel Rich Comer, of the USAF's 20th Special Operations Squadron — the Pave Low commander.

After briefing Lt. Col. Cody,

would begin as a 1,700-pound offset. After takeoff, the pod would gradually transfer fuel to an inboard tank, but 19 rockets in one pod had to be removed to make room for the 230-gallon external fuel tank. The so-called "DeVito Option" brought some belly laughs from other battalion pilots because of the odd configuration, but it was tested and approved.

Since Pave Lows had never interflown with Apaches before, Gray sought Schwarzkopf's blessing that they could rehearse the mission. "I like the mission. You're cleared to rehearse it," Schwarzkopf announced, "but don't you go shooting up any of my Hellfires." When Gray told Schwarzkopf he couldn't take the mission if he couldn't stage any "live fires," Schwarzkopf relented.

Johnson and his Air Force counterpart Gray took a videotape to Riyadh to show Schwarzkopf how the Apaches performed with Hellfires. "I was sitting on the floor in front of Schwarzkopf with charts of the

"When we had to prove to them [planners] we could hit a pickup-truck-sized target five clicks away at night," Vincent said, "we figured we were going north. I always wanted to be on a mission like this, on the cutting edge, and I've got a check in that block now."

At noon on 16 January, the Apache crews were awakened for their mission. In addition to eight Apaches in the strike force, four Apache mechanics tagged along in a Blackhawk, just in case they needed to make a road call. After a final intelligence briefing, everyone ate and reported to their aircraft at 2300.

Since the two Iraqi radar sites had to be taken down simultaneously, Cody split his strike force into two teams of four Apaches each. Cody's "White Team" and its two Pave Low escorts took off early, just before 0100.

The flights of four Apaches each traveled at a distance of about four rotor discs behind the low-flying Pave Lows

that were equipped with terrain-following radar. Together, they skipped over sand dunes in total darkness at 125 mph. The electronic-warfare Pave Lows used their Global Positioning System (GPS) to pinpoint a predetermined spot nine miles inside Iraq, from which the attacks would be launched. GPS can put a Pave Low within 10 meters of any predetermined spot on earth. Six minutes later, the other four Apaches and two Pave Lows, or the so-called "Red Team," took off from Al Juf and flew a similar course.

Close Coordination

"The white team launched first," Orsburn recalled, "because it had to fly a little farther than we [the red team] did, and the mission called for all of us to fire our Hellfires at precisely the same time, so the Iraqis wouldn't have time to warn Baghdad." Neither the Pave Lows or the

and CWO 3 Jim Miller on the right flank of the L-shaped attack formation.

While still outside the eight-mile maximum range of the Apache's weapons, the red and white teams shot laser beams to their targets, locked on and moved in low and slow for the kill.

"You'd think they'd turn down the lights if they knew we were coming," whispered one of the white-team pilots over the intercom.

"They don't know we're here," came a response from the gunner up front.

Moments later, radio silence between the flight leads and their buddies was broken for the first time since the mission began, as two separate fire commands were issued to the eight Apaches hovering four miles south of their respective targets. "Party in 10," radioed 1st Lt. Tom Drew to members of the white team.

"Joy," replied the red team leader as

"A big fat guy from Rockwell told us a week or two before the attack not to bother trying to manually track missiles," Vincent said, "and if I ever see him again, I'm going to punch him in the mouth."

Apaches had ever flown in this area before. Most of their training had been conducted in eastern Saudi Arabia where it's very flat, but this area was 700 miles northwest — entirely different, and a lot more dangerous.

At about 0200, the two teams approached Iraq's border at two different points. The red team passed some buildings just inside the border. Inside, lights were still on, but no one stirred as they went flying by. As the white team approached the border, Cody saw a flash below: An Iraqi soldier alarmed by the sound of helicopters had fired a missile in the choppers' direction, but missed.

"As soon as I slaved my TADS [Target Acquisition and Designation System] to the fire control computer, I could see my targets," remembered Orsburn, who sat up front in the gunner's position. "The target was 12 clicks from the update point," said Vincent, No. 2 man on the red team, who also rode up front.

At this point, the red team spread out. Vincent and his backseater, CWO 3 Shawn Hoban followed Orsburn. CWO 3 Timothy Roderick in the back seat flew team leader Captain Newman Shufflebarger behind their wingmen, CWO 2 Jody Bridgforth

the forward-looking infrared radar screens flashed LAUNCH.

Countdown To War

As the two teams simultaneously launched the first of 27 laser-guided Hellfire missiles, digital clocks on tiny screens in the Apache cockpits counted down the flight time of the missiles. "I actually counted down the last five seconds over the air," Roderick laughed, "five-four-three-two-one!"

"This one's for you, Saddam," muttered white-team member CWO 3 Dave Jones as he watched his Hellfire impact and explode.

Colonel Cody was not far from his wingman Drew when the party began. "From the first shot, they [Iraqis] were just running for cover," he said.

Footage of the destruction captured by the Apache's video is awesome. You can see Hellfires angling straight down, following invisible laser beams to their targets. The radar sites erupt in white flashes as the Hellfires explode. The heads-up display camera system is so good, you can see an Iraqi soldier running from a common van, then dive into a foxhole as a Hellfire comes

straight down and detonates.

The darkness is also pierced with 2.75-inch rockets showering the target area with thousands of razor-sharp flechettes. Buildings and vehicles on both sides shudder under impact of 30mm HE cannon rounds from the Apache's chain gun.

Apache crews had a choice of tracking targets manually or by using Image Auto Track (IAT). Since there's a danger of losing lock at long distances after dark, most gunners opted to track their targets manually. Vincent wishes he hadn't used IAT. "I wasted my first shot," he grouched, explaining how the brilliant flash from Orsburn's first Hellfire impacting its target caused his missile to break lock and hit the ground 75 to 100 meters short of the primary target, a common van used to maintain a direct voice link with the other radar site.

"A big fat guy from Rockwell told us a week or two before the attack not to bother trying to manually track missiles," Vincent said, "and if I ever see him again, I'm going to punch him in the mouth."

Roderick's first Hellfire didn't hit where he aimed either. "It was either a missile failure or what we call 'laser skip,'" recalled Roderick, who immediately "double tapped" a second missile to destroy his target.

As soon as Orsburn saw Vincent's missile had failed to take out the common van, he launched another Hellfire and destroyed the target. "Hellfires were falling so fast," he noted, "the Iraqis never knew what hit them."

Although the red and white teams carried 64 Hellfires, with 152 of the 2.75-inch rockets and almost 9,000 rounds of 30mm ammo, they used only 27 Hellfires, 40 rockets and 4,000 rounds of 30mm to destroy the radar sites. They had to save ammo in case the Iraqi army counterattacked in their sector.

"We didn't know if we'd have to fight our way back to base," Orsburn said. "So we had to save some of our ammo." Plus there was a shortage of munitions in the theater. When Schwarzkopf agreed to this daring strategy, he told planners that he wanted them to account for every Hellfire missile used prior to the mission — he insisted on being told every time a missile was to be fired. Vincent characterized it as "simply a case of use all you need, but need all you use." In other words, don't waste any of our \$35,000 weapons.

The Iraqi radar sites were disabled within the first 30 seconds. Four minutes later, the sites were smoking. Every piece of equipment was destroyed, including the barracks.

Sorry About That, Saddam

Orsburn's primary target was the generator: Without power, the whole site shut down. Vincent's target was the primary control van. Miller and Bridgforth went after the secondary control van. Roderick's target was the communications



Stealth F-117A Nighthawk returning to mountaintop base in Saudi after taking care o' business in downtown Baghdad. Photo: USAF

set. Roderick and team leader Shufflebarger would be the last to go home: They had to make sure their site was completely destroyed.

Orsburn noted that each of the primary targets was burning: "When I looked back, there was fire everywhere." Radar screens atop vehicles were not primary targets, but were chopped to pieces with 30mm HE cannon rounds. Using a Hellfire, Vincent nailed a Spoonrest, NATO designation for a deuce-and-a-half truck with two large radar screens on top. Radar screens atop a Flatface, a Soviet-built vehicle, were also damaged by the Apaches.

Each of the teams engaged the radar sites at eight clicks, firing as they inched closer at about 20 knots. When the Apaches closed to within 4,000 meters, they engaged and destroyed several ZPU anti-aircraft guns that were dug in on each side of the radar sites. When Roderick attacked the right side of the red team's target, he saw what was either ZPU fire or a SAM launch. But a blast of 30mm and a few Multipurpose Sub-Munitions, which each contain nine tiny bomblets, silenced the air defense pit.

The Apache crews were not supposed to get any closer than 3,000 meters, but some of Cody's men got to within 800 meters. "When I turned outbound," explained



Location of two enemy radar sites in western Iraq, first targets in Operation Desert Storm. Photo: courtesy 1st Special Operations Wing, USAF

Vincent, "I was so close I could see the whole hillside burning with the naked eye." But just as Vincent was surveying the scene, his backseater announced, "I've got a PNVIS [Pilot Night Vision System] failure."

When Vincent looked back down into the optical relay tube, all he saw was the ground coming up. "Pull up!" yelled Vincent as Hoban yanked back on the stick. Their Apache climbed almost straight up, from 100 to 540 feet in a flash. Turning tail to the enemy, Vincent and Hoban "mooned" the Iraqis. "It was hairy for a moment as he took over my TADS and I flipped my night vision goggles down," Vincent said, "but Shawn saved our ass."

Satisfied their mission was complete success, Cody and Shufflebarger flashed word to the Pave Low crews that the primary targets had been destroyed. The crews in turn passed this information on to CENTCOM in Riyadh. Code words "California AAA" and "Nebraska AAA" meant the radar sites were history and all hands were headed home; No U.S. casualties.

A Sigh Of Relief In Riyadh

In the war room at CENTCOM, Schwarzkopf took a breath and muttered, "Thank God."

As the red and white teams left the blazing battlefield and headed home, they kept their heads down, hugging the terrain. The Apaches took some small arms fire, but sustained no damage.

Although the Air Force Pave Low-led attack on the Iraqi radar sites didn't get any media attention at the time, Coalition pilots, including many Americans, are alive today because a small group of U.S. Army Apache pilots poked out Saddam's eyes on the day the Gulf War began.

For their part, the Army aviators were awarded Air Medals with "V"-bars for valor. The Air Force Pave Low crews who guided them to their targets received Distinguished Flying Crosses.

Frequent contributor Dale B. Cooper covered the Gulf War for SOF as a combat correspondent, and now continues his war chronicles with individual vignettes of noteworthy and heroic actions. ✕

COM

Two helicopters entered the valley outside of Neiva, Colombia, beneath a ceiling of heavy clouds covering the mountaintop. Through the mist, crews spotted more than two-dozen separate opium poppy fields on the mountain's lower sections.

Above one of these fields was a level outcropping just large enough to hold a single helicopter. With the second chopper providing overhead cover, one of the helicopters swung around the mountain, hopped over the ridgeline and made an assault landing on the small plateau. The doorgunner opened fire as it landed, while a policeman aboard fired his Galil rifle on full automatic from the craft's other side into the jungle. There was no return fire.

Our mission was part of a new, and secret, joint effort between the United States and Colombia to determine the true extent of opium poppy cultivation in the countryside. We had left Neiva around noon in two Anti-Narcotics Police (ANP) Bell Model 212 helicopters. Our group included three U.S. experts and 15 Colombian policemen.

All of the Colombians were wearing bulletproof vests and carrying Galils. The 212s' doorgunners were equipped with FN MAG 7.62mm machine guns. Earlier, while taking off, the U.S. team leader (whom I will call "Tony") had argued with Colonel Arellano, in charge of the operation. The colonel just wanted to overfly the area. He had resisted the idea of landing on one of the opium poppy fields because it was "too dangerous" and he didn't want the deaths of several *gringos* on his service record. Arellano also pointed out that two weeks earlier, a helicopter on a similar mission had been hit 14 times by ground fire.

Tony, a veteran of several years in the "Golden Triangle" formed by Laos, Thailand and Burma, had explained it was necessary to get samples of the poppies in order to analyze their alkaloid contents and determine the plants' chemical "signatures." Finally, Arellano had agreed.

As soon as we landed, the police quickly fanned out and moved down to the edges of the sloping field. The U.S. experts took pictures, pulled up several-dozen plants and used a global positioning device to mark the field. In less than 10 minutes everyone was back on board for the return flight.

Indian Country

According to the police commander in Neiva, capital of the department of Huila, government control does not extend past the town's edge. Beyond lies "Indian Country," controlled by FARC rebels (Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces), Colombia's oldest and largest communist guerrilla group.

There have been rumors of organized poppy cultivation in this region for some five years. Yet as late as May 1991, a U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) 30-page report entitled *Worldwide Heroin Situation* barely made mention of Colombia, noting there was "some evidence which suggests limited shipment of heroin into New York by Colombians," but that the country of origin for that heroin was unknown. It added that reporting on opium poppy cultivation in Colombia was "sporadic

Mountains near Neiva are perfect for cultivation of poppies. Authorities in the U.S. and Colombia downplay Colombia's involvement in the opium trade, but U.S. agents say cultivation is as full-scale as they've seen anywhere. Photo: R.I. Emblin



BATING THE NEW DRUG THREAT

Colombia's Cartels Diversify into Heroin

by David Rivera



Scored poppy bulb oozes opium latex drops, which turn black after 10-12 hours exposure to air.
Photo: Arthur Hamack



and unsubstantiated.”

This mission and several other secret operations have changed that perception. “That’s as full-scale production as I’ve ever seen,” Tony said frankly. Authorities in Huila originally estimated some 275 acres were under poppy cultivation; they ended up finding close to 2,500 acres. [In this past March 1992, DEA agent Roger Guevara told *SOF* that U.S. drug enforcement agencies are well aware that opium poppy cultivation is occurring in Colombia, and they are closely monitoring the situation.]

Three months later, I boarded an ANP Twin Otter flying to the department of Tolima, not far from the city of Cali, for another operation. We landed at the “airport” outside the town of Chaparral. ANP guards armed with Galils and Uzis stood every 30 yards along the 22-foot-wide airstrip.

We were met by Arellano, a short, dark-haired ANP commander wrapped in a bulletproof vest and carrying a CAR-15. As we waited for the sun to burn off mist shrouding the mountains, he explained the situation in this part of Tolima. According to Arellano, two separate FARC fronts, numbering about 350 armed guerrillas, controlled the area in the mountains southwest of Chaparral. “These guys are not Indians,” he said. “They know what they’re doing.”

The colonel explained how FARC was using opium poppy cultivation as a means to finance their operations, both by direct cultivation and through charging area peasants a 40% “tax” on private poppy fields. “I see [poppy



Anti-Narcotics Police enter growing areas heavily armed and very cautiously. Guerrillas were in control of Chaparral area; it took 125 ANP personnel to secure the area. Photo: R.I. Emblin



Doorgunner armed with 7.62mm FN MAG covers other raiders as they move into poppy field. Two weeks earlier, a helicopter on a similar mission was hit 14 times by ground fire. Photo: R.I. Emblin



Bell Model 212 helicopters are only way raiders can get into remote mountain locales where poppy fields are under cultivation. Photo: R.I. Emblin

cultivation] with alarm,” he added. “It’s happening at an accelerating pace.”

At 1330 we boarded two other 212s for the 10-minute flight to a poppy field that had been raided and secured the previous day by a 125-man unit of ANPs. The mountains in this area were so rugged that approaching the poppy field by land was virtually impossible. At an altitude of 8,000 feet, the field was planted on the mountain’s 60-degree slope. Troops had to rappel four or six men at a time out of the helicopters. Unlike the small cultivation we observed on previous operations, this field covered a full 60 acres. Aided by the mountain’s inaccessibility, the police were able to arrest 20 men and one woman taking care of the cultivation. Four other women between the ages of 20 to 24 years were not arrested because they had small children.

Guerrilla Farmers

About 60 police were busy chopping down the delicate plants while the rest provided security around the sprawling field. In addition to Galils and Uzis, some police carried G3s and several were armed with M-79 grenade launchers. Others also carried mortar rounds, though I didn’t see any launching tubes. In a shack on the field’s far end, police found equipment including combat boots and camouflage ponchos, which they said belonged to FARC guerrillas. The police were ready for, and expecting, a confrontation because the field was ready for harvest. Guerrillas usually manage to show up for this.

The field workers had been there about five months, living in a long, crudely built wooden shack. It had four sleeping rooms, each opening out to a dirt path running the length of the shack. Opposite these entrances, women had planted flowers. Beyond the flowers was a slope, which they threw their trash down. Crude kitchens lay at either end of the shack. Despite our proximity to the equator, at this altitude temperatures can get down close to freezing. The planks making up the sleeping room walls had gaps as wide as 1-inch between them.

At first, the young mothers who remained pretended to know nothing. One youthful woman, bouncing a 2-year-old daughter on her lap, said she had been hired in the town of Ibague and hadn’t known at the time that poppies were illegal. She also didn’t know the meaning of the English words printed on her lime green T-shirt: *I’m an alcoholic. In case of emergency, buy me a drink.* Another young woman with shoulder-length curly hair admitted she was working here “for the money” — \$50 per month.

The poppies were not mixed with other plants or otherwise hidden. Laid out in neat rows, their bright red flowers stuck out like a sore thumb against the natural jungle’s deep green. Why hadn’t the workers formed an escape plan? “We didn’t think the police would come,” the

woman answered. "Besides, it's five hours by mule to the nearest village.

Inside one of the kitchens, Arellano explained how there was some justification for this belief. Mounting this kind of raiding operation was expensive as well as dangerous, and couldn't be done as often as he would like. I was alarmed when he complained that one of the helicopters we were flying in was using a transmission taken from a scrap heap. "We could use more spare parts," he added unnecessarily.

By this time, the clouds had closed in; we were told it would be impossible to leave until around noon the next day. "Once the clouds come and it starts to rain, it stays that way all night," explained the woman wearing the English T-shirt.

ANP pilots are not trained for night flying, while navigational aids are non-existent outside major cities. But a half-hour before dark, a hole miraculously opened in the clouds and the non-ANP personnel scrambled aboard. I made sure I changed helicopters for the flight back to Chaparral.

From Mountain Fields To U.S. Streets

While the ANP continues its efforts to manually eradicate opium poppy fields (often with logistical help from the army), Colombian authorities and analysts continue to wrestle with two problems: Who is controlling the cultivation, and how is it getting out of the country?

Guerrillas clearly control, or at least protect, the cultivation. General Camilo Zuniga of the Colombian army's 3rd Division declared flatly that the FARC oversees cultivation. But the guerrillas are not known to possess a sophisticated transportation network to move the opium "latex" after harvesting, or to have access to processing facilities needed to turn the latex into morphine or heroin. And how does the heroin and/or latex get to distribution networks in the United States and Europe? The obvious conclusion is that it ultimately is under control of one or more of the Colombian drug cartels.

One U.S. narcotics expert claimed, "[It is] more than likely an established group, someone already having access to a trafficking infrastructure and the financial wherewithal necessary to make the investments and transport the opium latex."

Although Colombia is widely regarded as "the source" of cocaine, the vast majority of coca leaf is actually grown in Bolivia and Peru, then processed in Colombia. Large-scale cultivation, especially of a crop as labor-intensive as opium poppies, therefore presents new

ECO BATTLE

Increased opium poppy cultivation in Colombia presents serious ecological ramifications. Colombian authorities are increasingly worried that the slash tactics used by poppy growers will do permanent ecological damage, not just to the delicate mountain slopes, but also to waterways throughout the country. Large-scale erosion of soft mountain soils could cause flooding in some areas and shortages in others by silting up tributaries.

And then there's the chemical battle. To maximize crop yield, untrained growers are using large quantities of powerful herbicides. One empty bag found in a Chaparral field contained a warning that it was toxic if inhaled or swallowed. In case that happened, the patient was to be taken to a doctor immediately.

On the other side of the chemical question is the controversy over government plans to eradicate opium poppy cultivation by spraying. Given the terrain and extent of cultivation, manual eradication is clearly out of the question. The United States is actively pushing a

program of eradication using the herbicide glyphosate (the main ingredient in commercially sold "Roundup"). The Anti-Narcotics Police strongly support this idea. "We could wipe out the entire problem within one year that way," Colonel Arellano noted.

However, despite the fact that glyphosate has long been used by Colombia's legitimate agriculture industries, many people are hesitant about its use against poppies. One of the program's biggest opponents is Health Minister Camilo Gonzales Posso, who says he's not satisfied with information proclaiming the chemical's safety. One could perhaps cynically note that Posso is a member of M-19, the former guerrilla group (now a legitimate political party) which in 1985 stormed and destroyed the Palace of Justice in Bogota.

The Colombian government has given provisional approval to the glyphosate spraying plan, but a lot may happen before it really gets off the ground.

— D.R.

security and control problems to the cartels. This may account for the apparent close cooperation between the traffickers and guerrilla groups. So far, that cooperation has been extraordinarily successful; the trail leading from mountain fields to U.S. streets vanishes after the latex is collected from the bulbs of the "damned flower."

Although the "who" and "how"

Though majority of cultivation found so far has been in the shaded area, poppy fields have been discovered in departments in all parts of Colombia.



remain a bit murky, the "why" of poppy cultivation is abundantly clear. Arellano put it succinctly: "Greed."

The mountains of Colombia are ideal for growing opium poppies. Unlike the case of coca, with opium poppies Colombians can control the production of the basic raw material, keeping its profit for themselves. Additionally, a coca crop needs 18 months to mature, while opium poppies require only three to five months.

Ease of processing is another plus. Although heroin is technically harder to produce than cocaine, it requires a much smaller volume of chemicals, thereby reducing the headaches of obtaining controlled "precursor chemicals." Each acre of opium poppy produces enough latex to refine about 45 grams of pure heroin — street value: \$25,000.

One member of the U.S. team in Huila told me, "Colombians are savvy businessmen. Opium and heroin trafficking will be much more profitable than cocaine trafficking."

"There's great danger here," warned Felix Jimenez of the DEA's heroin division. "With the purity of the heroin that we think is being produced here — if it continues to be processed at less cost than in Asia, the South American product could easily corner the world market."

Arellano and his men don't want to see this happen, but they're fighting, literally, an uphill battle.

Continued on page 74

A U.S. Army manual of the period stated (apparently with pride) that Colt's Model P of 1873 (aka the "Peacemaker" or "Frontier" model) Single Action Army revolver could be fired 18 times in one minute and 54 seconds, beginning and ending with all chambers empty. A man armed with a percussion-cap revolver and two extra loaded cylinders could do better. But, centerfire metallic cartridges offered too many advantages over cap-and-ball systems; single action revolvers of the Colt type are still going strong after almost 12 decades.

Plagued by slow reloading when compared to revolvers with swing-out cylinders, or worse yet, to semiauto pistols with submachine-gun-capacity magazines, Colt's classic and its numerous clones are today hardly a first choice for a gunfight. Don't sell it and its mighty cartridge short, however, for self-defense when indoors on your turf facing only one or two assailants. Under those circumstances, I'll take it over any .380-sized pocket auto in the catalog, even though it must be thumb-cocked for each round fired.

Moreover, "Judge Colt's Equalizer" provides appealing attributes for hunters, backpackers, fastdraw competitors, drug-store cowboys and "power" plinkers. I must confess to the latter weakness, as I'm fond of shooting beer cans with a Freedom Arms .454 Casull or Ruger M77 chambered for the pipsqueak .458 Winchester Magnum round.

Ordnance Department inspection of the U.S. Martial .45-caliber Colt Single Action Army Revolver in the 7.5-inch barrel length (the so-called U.S. Cavalry Model) commenced in September 1873. Less than 20 years later, it was replaced by the .38-caliber double action Colt revolver (an advancement in technology, but a step backward with regard to wound ballistics).

Most of the U.S. Colt Single Actions used during the Indian Wars were recalled in 1893. During the following decade,

16,097 revolvers were refurbished at Colt's factory or at Springfield Armory, fitted with 5.5-inch barrels. The name "Artillery" was attached to these short-barreled U.S.-martial Colts by gun collectors, because many were issued to several of the light artillery batteries during the Spanish-American War.

The cost to the U.S. government for cutting these barrels to 5.5 inches was an extra 25 cents apiece. Today, an excellent specimen of an authenticated U.S. "Artillery Model" will fetch in excess of \$3,000. Even modern "third"-generation Colt Single Actions with unturned cylinders

black powder models some years ago, they were manufactured by Uberti. Uberti-made Colt clones have been and are now imported by Mitchell Arms, E.M.F., Interarms and Cimarron Arms.

Cimarron Arms (Dept. SOF, 1106 Wisterwood, No. G, Houston, TX 77043; phone: 713-468-2007) imports an Uberti-made copy of the Artillery Model that is authentic in most details, and is an excellent choice for those who wish to shoot and own a caliber .45 Colt single action revolver.

It has a 5.5-inch barrel, an old-style frame with the cylinder (or "base") pin

ITALIAN

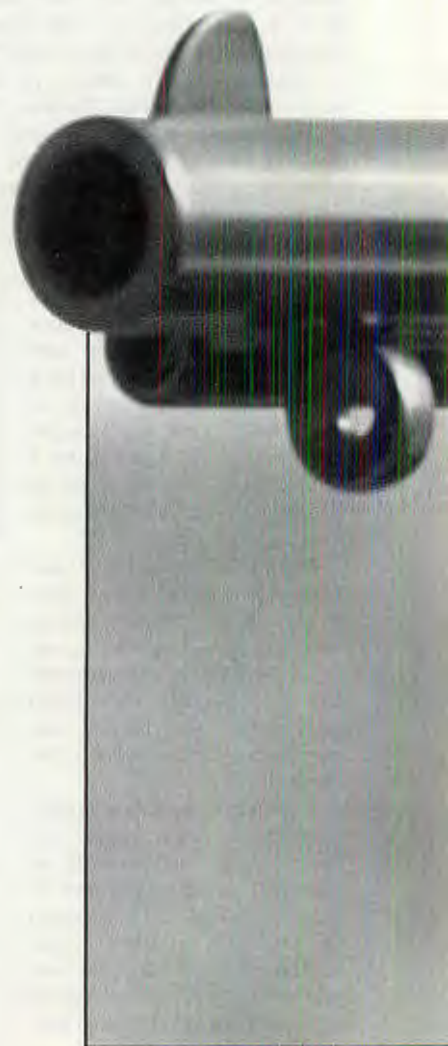
run \$1,100 and more. Shooting firearms of such value cannot be justified by most of us — there is an alternative.

The Import Option

By 1940, Colt ceased production of the Single Action Army revolver (only to reintroduce it, drop it, reintroduce it, drop it, then make it available only on special order through the Colt Custom Shop, and most recently reintroduce it again as a limited-production catalogued item with a suggested retail price of \$1,119.95). Television westerns created a lust for handguns of this type. By the 1950s, thousands had been manufactured by the West German firm of Sauer & Sohn and imported by Hy Hunter, and later, Hawes. Others in Germany, Italy and Belgium began to produce their own copies of early Colt revolvers during this same time frame.

Aldo Uberti & Co. S.r.l., of Ponte Zanano Sarezzo, Italy, now produces more Colt-type single action revolvers, including black powder versions, than all the other foreign makers combined. They are generally well-executed copies. In fact, when Colt reintroduced a number of their

The greatest tactical defect of the single action revolver is the one-at-a-time slowness with which empty cases must be removed before new rounds are inserted. It cannot compete on the streets against modern semiauto pistols with submachine-gun-capacity magazines.



retained by a threaded screw, an early "bull's-eye"-type ejector rod and a beveled cylinder face. The barrel, cylinder, backstrap, base pin, ejector rod and housing, trigger, trigger guard and other small components have been charcoal-blued (albeit by a modern oxide or "salt" bluing process). Both the hammer and frame have attractive and correct case-hardened finishes.

It is the period-style markings, however, that both establish this as a copy of the U.S. Artillery Model and befuddle the U.S. Customs Service. The serial numbers (usually mismatched on the originals) are

located on the frame, bottom of the backstrap, on the trigger guard, and (with the last four digits only) on the cylinder.

There is no serial number on the barrel, as will be found on the original Colt U.S. martial Single Actions. The left side of the frame is marked with "U.S." and two authentic patent dates ("Sept. 19, 1871" and "July 2, 1872").

The trigger guard, barrel, backstrap and cylinder are all marked with a "C," which stands for the sub-inspector Albert P. Casey, who worked in 1875 when some of the U.S. Cavalry Models (from which the Artillery Model was eventually created)

were still being manufactured.

Both barrel and cylinder carry a "P" proofmark. The right walnut grip panel has an "RAC" script cartouche, while both the cylinder and the bottom of the left grip panel are stamped "R.A.C.," indicating Rinaldo A. Carr, the ordnance sub-inspector during the 1900-1903 period, when a substantial number of these conversions were effected.

Clues For Customs

All of this is apparently more than U.S. Customs officials can handle, even though the top of the barrel is clearly marked

STALLION

Colt .45 Clone for Power Plinkers

Text & Photos by Peter G. Kokalis



Single-action revolvers of the Colt type are still going strong after 12 decades. During this time frame, the mighty .45 Colt cartridge has provided great execution on both sides of the line.

“CIMARRON F.A. MFG. Co. HOUSTON, TX. U.S.A.” while the country of origin is stamped under the ejector housing. To protect the brain-dead from believing these revolvers to be originals, in the future “Made in Italy” will be stamped on the barrel to the side of, rather than under, the ejector housing. The mentality of our federal bureaucracy is incredible.

Suggested retail price for the “Rinaldo A. Carr 1895 U.S. Artillery Model” revolver imported by Cimarron Arms is \$459, or about one-third the price of a new Colt-manufactured Single Action. Unfortunately, neither is acceptable out of the box. Both require extensive tuning by a single action specialist.

Bob James (Dept. SOF, 7704 W. John Cabot, Glendale, AZ 85308; phone: 602-547-1942) is widely acclaimed as a premier surgeon on single-action revolvers. James is also a professional fastdraw artist who frequently demonstrates that the hand is quicker than the eye at gun shows, exhibitions and in open competitions sponsored by the World Fastdraw Association. He has been treating single action six-guns to tender loving care for almost 30 years.

Working exclusively on single actions, he will provide a tune-up for \$80, plus costs of any parts required. His work is outstanding. SOF’s test specimen was sent to him immediately, prior to any shooting, as dry firing only demonstrated the trigger pull to be a major disaster — exceptionally heavy and creepy enough to grind the enamel off your teeth.

James honed the entire action by hand. Some internal parts required reshaping. An example of the latter is the locking bolt — out of the box, these revolvers will usually skip (jump a notch), and the timing



must be reset by reworking the locking bolt to prevent the cylinder from going past its correct alignment with the bore. The factory sear-and-bolt spring was removed and a replacement was fabricated from music-wire spring stock. The original flat spring is much too strong and will beat the gun to death in short order. The mainspring was cut to make it lighter and yet still provide reliable ignition. This is not a job for amateurs, as the mainspring must be taper-cut from the sides, not flat-cut.

The headspace to the barrel (cylinder gap) was inspected and adjusted to 0.008-inch (when cast bullets will be fired, the cylinder gap should be between 0.005-inch to 0.012-inch; if only jacketed bullets will be used, then the cylinder gap can be reduced to 0.003-inch). The headspace to the recoil plate (frame) on these imported single actions must also be inspected, as sometimes as much as 0.004–0.005-inch must be custom-milled off the front of the

Cimarron Arms' U.S. Artillery Model employs old-style Colt frame, with cylinder pin retained by a threaded screw.

recoil plate.

The front sight alignment must also be inspected and adjusted on both Uberti and Colt single actions, while the barrel will often have to be screwed in or out as much as 0.003-inch to move the front sight and, later, the horizontal point of bullet impact. SOF’s test specimen would have shot 10–12 inches to the left at 25 yards had it not been modified accordingly.

The end of the ejector rod on our test specimen had been cut flat and required rounding and polishing to operate without hanging up. The rear of the barrel was not plumb with the face of the cylinder, and required resurfacing. The bolt was rehardened to reduce wear.

Six-Gun Tips

Although the Uberti is internally very similar to the Colt, with some slightly different parts like the hammer, James says that it sometimes takes up to twice as long to tune an Uberti as it does a Colt. In any event, the result was a very slick six-gun with a crisp, clean-breaking pull weight at just under 2 pounds. Criticizing the long hammer-fall of single action revolvers is *de rigueur* with the unqualified hacks writing for the popular gun press. In fact, trigger pull weight is the overriding consideration in maximizing the accuracy potential of these horse pistols.

Another difference from the original is a hammer-block safety located under the

The Cimarron Arms U.S. Artillery Model is a mostly authentic and generally well-made copy, with historically correct features and period-style markings. Shown here with early cartridges, bullet mold, loading tool and Hercules FFg black powder can.



firing pin. It is activated by drawing the hammer back to the safety notch. This causes a small steel block on a spring-loaded rod to move downward and butt up against the frame to prevent the firing pin from contacting the primer. When the hammer is drawn back to full cock, the hammer block will move up and out of the way so that it interfaces with a recess in the frame when the hammer falls fully forward.

I don't trust this mechanism and you shouldn't, either. The cowpoke's rule of carrying only "five beans in the wheel" still applies to all single action six-guns of this type. The hammer should always rest fully forward with an empty chamber in front of it, unless a gunfight is imminent. To end up with an empty chamber in front of the hammer, pull the hammer back past the first (or safety) notch position to half cock, so the cylinder rotates freely; then load one, skip one, and load four. Draw the hammer all the way back to full cock, then lower it carefully to the fully down position.

This is a six-shooter begging to slap leather — no modern Cordura need apply. Milt Sparks Holsters Inc. (Dept. SOF, 605 E. 44th Street, No. 2, Boise, ID 83714; phone: 208-377-5577) provided us with a cowhide rig of high quality and practical design.

Named for one of my frequent partners in crime, my good friend and professional *pistolero* Ken E. Hackathorn, "No. HSR — The Hackathorn for Revolvers" is an ideal holster for competitive revolver shooters and, even more, an excellent crossdraw rig for field use with long barreled, single action revolvers. It comes standard with a forward rake for crossdraw wear, although a rear rake is optional. One of its salient features is an adjustable tension welt (pioneered by the FBI's legendary Hank Sloan) to provide positive retention. Just loosen



the screw and move the welt under the trigger guard in or out. Retighten the screw and you're ready to mount any bucking bronco in the rodeo. Hand-molded, the Hackathorn for Revolvers costs \$65 in natural-finish leather. Add \$16 for cowhide lining, \$8 for basket stamping and \$5 for black or cordovan finish.

We mated this holster to a basket-stamped, cowhide lined, 1.5-inch-wide No. 1B belt (\$57, including

Milt Sparks Holsters Inc. can provide excellent modern leather in which to slap a single action revolver. Their No. HSR, "The Hackathorn for Revolvers" is an ideal forward-rake crossdraw holster for field use. It features an adjustable tension welt to provide positive retention.

CIMARRON ARMS U.S. ARTILLERY MODEL SPECIFICATIONS

Caliber:45 Colt.
Operation:	Single action revolver with six-shot cylinder.
Weight:	36 ounces.
Length, overall:	11 1/8 inches.
Barrel:	Six grooves with a left-hand twist of one turn in 16 inches and a 0.452-inch groove diameter.
Barrel length:	5.5 inches.
Sights:	Tapered (0.095-inch to 0.070-inch) fixed front sight blade with height designed for 250-grain bullets to impact approximately to point of aim at 25 yards; V-notch rear sight cut into topstrap.
Finish:	Hammer and frame case-hardened; all other components charcoal-blued by oxide process.
Price:	\$459
Manufacturer:	Aldo Uberti & Co. S.r.l., Dept. SOF, Via Carducci, 41, Ponte Zanano Sarezzo (BS), Italy 25060.
Importer:	Cimarron Arms, Dept. SOF, 1106 Wisterwood St., No. G, Houston, TX 77043; phone: 713-468-2007.
T&E Summary:	Excellent value, but requires tuning before use. Slow to reload. Grip-frame design exaggerates muzzle climb and retards target reacquisition. A formidable cartridge in an antique envelope with limited self-defense applications, but offering a wider range of sporting relevance, including hunting and plinking.

options). A proper gun belt is every bit as important as the holster hanging from it, as it provides structural rigidity to support the holster and gun, and distributes the load for wearing comfort over long periods of time. All of Milt Sparks' lined belts are constructed of two pieces of 6/7-ounce No. 1 top-grain cowhide. The buckles on these heavy-duty belts are solid brass, attached with brass "Chicago" screws to facilitate buckle changing.

For more than 20 years, Milt Sparks' holsters have been hanging from gun belts of the likes of Jeff Cooper, Elmer Keith, Mel Tappan and an untold number of other professional gun handlers. I can personally recommend their rigs without reservations of any kind.

Close-Range Classic

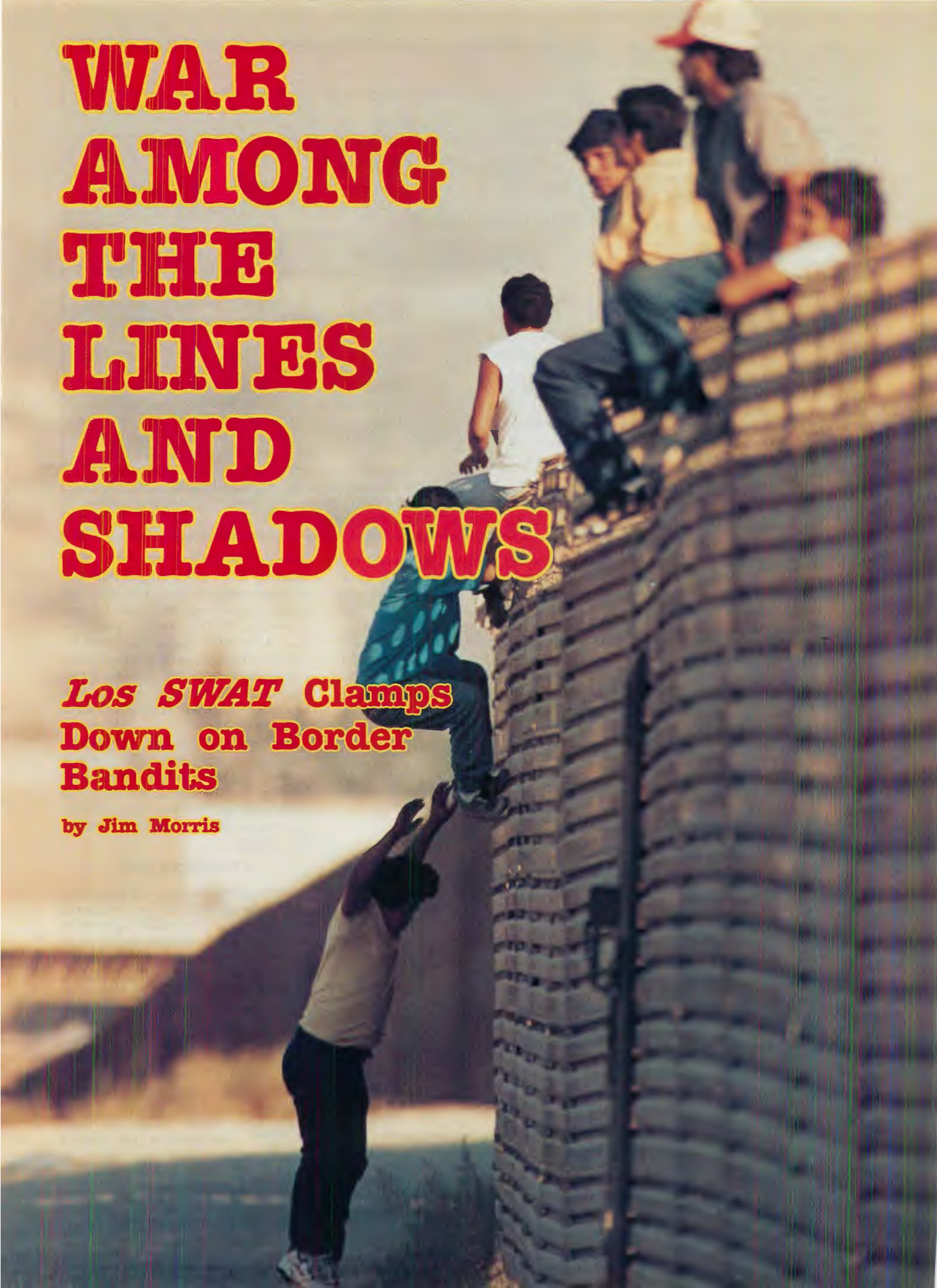
Shooting this revolver with accuracy is a task to be mastered, and best avoided by the undedicated. The problem lies with its sights. Uberti has combined an early Colt SA V-notch topstrap rear sight, with a front sight blade that tapers upward from 0.095-inch at its base to 0.070-inch at the tip. The front sight is too thick, and the rear sight notch is both too narrow and too shallow. Tremendous concentration is required to maintain an identical sight picture from shot to shot. Nevertheless, the accuracy potential is there. When we did our part, five-shot groups fired from a support at 25 yards

Continued on page 68

WAR AMONG THE LINES AND SHADOWS

*Los SWAT Clamps
Down on Border
Bandits*

by Jim Morris



So kick open the swinging saloon doors! Stop the tinkling piano. Keep your lizard-shit civilian small talk to front-pew level because you lizard-shit civilians are in the presence of the last of the hardball, cactus-stuck, worm-chewing, chili-sucking, skull-crunching, bandit-busting, ball-clanging Gunslingers in the West.
— Joseph Wambaugh, *Lines and Shadows*

Within San Diego's city limits is an area of canyons, eight to 10 miles wide and maybe four miles long, stretching to the Mexican border.

Through these canyons pass roughly 40% of the estimated half-million illegal aliens who try to enter this country each year.

They are, for the most part, gentle, docile people who only want what all our ancestors wanted — a chance, any chance at all. Many never get it; they are robbed, raped or murdered on the way in.

The U.S. Border Patrol is responsible for stemming this tide of economic refugees and for interdicting smuggling. But these are the only laws they enforce; everything else is the responsibility of the San Diego Police Department (SDPD).

For years, nobody worried about the canyons; whatever happened there happened to official non-persons, and there was no political pressure to help them. In 1976, Lieutenant Dick Snider of the SDPD's Southern Division decided to do something about the situation. Snider was a decent man, an original thinker, a Spanish-speaker. He felt compassion for these helpless, ravaged people, and outrage that such things could happen in his district, so he sought and received permission to form a special detail to combat crime on the border.

Someone called it the Border Area Robbery Force, "BARF," and before long what was probably a bureaucratic joke became a badge of honor. This detail became the most controversial police job in San Diego and probably the most dangerous in America.

Wambaugh's Vision

Joseph Wambaugh told their story in his compelling 1984 book *Lines and Shadows*. Since 1984, the detail's name has changed — it's currently called the

Illegal Mexican immigrants leap from border fence into the United States; once across, their problems have only just begun.
Photo: AP/Wide World

Border Crime Intervention Unit (BCIU). Captain Phil Jarvis of the Southern Division has supervision over BCIU, but he referred me to Lt. Dave Bejarano as the man most knowledgeable about its inner workings. Bejarano is with the vice detail out of Central Division now, but he served twice with BCIU, first as an agent in 1984, then as sergeant-in-charge in 1987.

SWAT-trained and Spanish speaking, Bejarano was an ideal man for this work. He explained the border area this way: "In some places there is fencing, or pierced steel planking, government-surplus runway material. The illegals come in the thousands, led through by organized 'polleros' [illegals are called *pollos* in Spanish, or chickens; those who lead them are *polleros*]. Usually they'll be carrying a little sack of stuff and a few bucks.

"The bandits normally operate in groups of two to 10, maybe four to six on average. They're vicious, callous individuals," he noted.

Bandits carry knives, sticks, screwdrivers or guns, and frequently .22s,

but sometimes only replicas of guns.

"They'll approach a group, knock somebody down or stab them right away, just to get their attention ... Usually the bandits are under the influence of glue, marijuana or alcohol. They're easy to spot; only bandits and smugglers head south. But you have to catch them in the act to arrest them." Bejarano added that relations with Mexican police are good; they are supportive and cooperative. "In the *Lines and Shadows* days, the cops pretended to be *pollos*. The police department formed a joint task force with the Border Patrol, maybe four or five from each. The Border Patrol now has only a liaison man assigned."

He tells a story of watching in the moonlight as a group assembled on the west side of the airport mesa on what is called "the soccer field." I asked him if they used night vision goggles, and he answered that in canyons one could see better with the naked eye. They had spotted an old guy carrying a handgun heading back into Mexico. When challenged, he fired and hit the Border Patrol supervisor. The old man ran on, fired again, fell down and finally disappeared through the fence.

Asked if any of his colleagues had been hit out there, Bejarano replied, "Three or four Border Patrol agents have been. Agent Fred Stevens was hit several times at close range."

No wonder they cut back to just a liaison, I thought.

If the San Diego P.D. used recruiting posters like the U.S. Army and Marine Corps, they could put Sergeant Greg Sloan's picture on them. Blond, tanned,

Lt. Dick Snider briefs the BARF squad before they head out on their first patrol. Sgt. Manny Lopez is seated on the desk. Photo: courtesy Manny Lopez



sincere — he looks like somebody you'd expect to see stroll out of the ocean with a surfboard under his arm. On the job, though, he is the sergeant-in-charge of BCIU. An 11-year veteran on the force, he has been with BCIU for four months, this time.

"It's usually a one-year tour," Sloan said. "It takes time to learn the tactics, but after a year you tend to burn out in it." He's worked patrol, the beach team, the boat team, SWAT, and as a BCIU agent. "I joined the police force to help people," he said, sounding as though he meant it.

The major difference between BCIU and the old BARF unit was that BARF worked undercover and got in a lot of

Diego has to a slum. The chopper crosses over downtown, then posh residential districts, burbs, million-dollar homes perched on hillsides, beaches, speedboats and sailboats — all the toys that wealth and technology provide.

We sweep up the coast, then out over the railroad yards and south to the wide band of gray canyons marking the border. Just across the fence lie the Tijuana airport and slums. From the air, these canyons are a most uninviting stretch of real estate, barren and diseased-looking. If the planet were a dog, this would be mange.

They're forming up by the fence — knots of small brown people. It's like a carnival or sporting event. Taco and soda

wrote about the BARF unit, but even allowing for that, it's obvious that Manny only superficially resembles his character in the book.

In the book, Manny comes across as a kind of gold-chain loony in a pastel suit and Vegas dealer's shirt; dark and glowering, ready to go ballistic at any moment. This guy is nothing like that. On the other hand, all the really hard guys I've ever met seem nice enough until you cross them.

Manny gets us drinks. Fela, it soon develops, works as tech-office manager for Manny's detective agency. He is now a private eye, as they say. And the two are, as they also say, an item.



firefights, according to Sloan, who noted this had led to nasty political difficulties, so BCIU now wears uniforms and has a high visibility. When they're on the scene, bandits go away.

Sloan was a very polite young man, but he refused to say much about BCIU's organization or tactics, the idea being that to reveal them helps the bandits while endangering his officers. He did say his men operate mostly on foot. They get information from inbound pollos on where the bandits might be, then try to catch them in the act.

"The pollos are good-hearted people, and very timid. That's why one bandit can take down 15 of them. When they come in, you can spot the ones who are gonna' be trouble later. The bandits walk differently than the others, more confidently," Sloan explained.

A Bird's-Eye View

While on a helicopter patrol with SDPD Air Support Unit pilots Bob McDonald and Ray Albright, we fly over a neat little ghetto neighborhood, the closest thing San

Under the glare of a U.S. Border Patrol helicopter searchlight, the original BARF unit heads out on patrol.

Photo: courtesy Manny Lopez

pop salesmen move through the crowd. The contrast between these people and weekenders along the beach couldn't be more vivid. No white shorts or golden tans, no beacons of blonde hair; these colors are muted by repeated washing in dirty streams.

Man Behind The Image

Manny Lopez, who was sergeant-in-charge of the original BARF unit, lives in a large, pleasant house in Mission Hills. It's an old neighborhood, upper-middle class but not wealthy.

I press the bell and the door opens almost immediately. Standing in front of me is the hero, or at least the central figure, of Wambaugh's genuinely great cop book. It's Saturday night and he's having drinks with a small, attractive blonde in the living room. He introduces her as Fela.

It's been a long time since Wambaugh

From Wambaugh's description, I knew Manny was careful in his dress, but that's not the same as having good taste. His tan linen trousers and black silk sport shirt are just right. His drink is a martini with one olive, in the correct cocktail glass. He has taste; he has style. He seems to have about 20 IQ points more than one would expect from his image. My guess is that the entire time he was a policeman, he never worked for anyone smarter than he was. This has not made him arrogant, but it has made him skeptical.

And Manny has charm, charisma, all that stuff. You wonder why he doesn't run for public office. Probably because he is by nature a warrior, a character-type for whom the moral acrobatics of politics are unthinkable.

Objective journalism? I like the guy.

We sit there awhile, shooting the breeze on neutral topics. He's trying to find out if I'm the kind of journalist who will use him — betray a confidence — I'm trying to find out if he's a bullshit artist. I tell him he doesn't fit the image of him I had formed earlier from Wambaugh's book.

He smiles. "That's because Joe Wambaugh used me to play a certain role in the book. He called me once while he was working on it, on a weekend. He was in town, had some points he wanted to check. I was married then, and the kids were still young. We were playing charades in the living room. Not something we did all the time, but we were doing it. Wambaugh showed up at the door. 'Come on in,' I said.

"'I don't want to interfere with your time with your family,' he said. 'So okay,' I said. 'We're just playing charades with the kids.'" Manny recalled. "I had a study in my garage and we went back there to talk and had a couple of drinks. When he left he walked halfway down the walk and came back up. 'I can't believe you were playing charades,' he said, and I knew then the role I was gonna play in the book.

Disturbing Stories

There were a couple incidents in the book that had bothered me. There was one shoot-out in which the bandits had emerged unscathed, but one of his officers had shot a partner. After it was over, Manny was hop-pin' mad, not at the officer who had wounded his colleague, but at the one who hadn't fired. That was the main incident that had made me think the head of San Diego's BARF unit might be dangerously nuts.

Manny shook his head. "No, I wasn't mad when Ernie didn't fire that time. I was glad. But there were other times when he should have fired and didn't. I was concerned about that.

"I was really shook about that incident, because it was the only time my boys got in a firefight that I wasn't with them. I was with another team about 100 yards away," Manny said. "And I never called Ernie a coward like it says in the book. Nobody who goes into those canyons is a coward. But that stuff works on you, and after a while your timing can be off — your judgment can be off."

I pressed a little: "I'm surprised there weren't more shootings of officers than there were, all that lead flying around at extremely close ranges. To me, it sounds like a prescription for disaster. You actually had to wait until the bandit had drawn down on you, then you had to draw and fire before they could get off a shot."

Manny nodded. "It was all instant psychology. You have to realize how humble the pollos are. The

bandits were so surprised when all of a sudden those humble pollos have badges and guns in their faces, most of the time they'd just give up. But you'd have to know when they're psyched up to go for it.

"Sometimes you'd have cops and bandits firing at each other, maybe 30 shots exchanged at a range of 3 feet, and nobody gets hit," he added. "There's no standardized training for it. I used to train my guys by having them draw and fire at silhouette targets 5 feet away, in the dark, while I'm standing right by them yelling in their ear, firing my own weapon.

"It's like the time we got *El Loco*," Manny recalled the rogue who wore a ski mask and had become best known of the bandits. "There were three bandits. I drew and fired at the one furthest away, then the one closest, then the one in the middle. They were all armed — they all fired. I had to automatically, subconsciously, assess the threat and react accordingly, and do it right and not make any mistakes. You



Every night, hundreds of illegal aliens gather on dusty mesa known as "the soccer field," waiting for night and a chance to slip into the United States.

Photo: AP/Wide World

can't train for that," he explained.

"You know, we didn't operate like that when we started. We wore camouflage uniforms and black makeup and watch caps. But it didn't work. As soon as the bandits knew it was us, they'd break for the border. Then it became a footrace in the dark. They always had a head start, and carried less weight. Plus they knew their little patch of terrain and usually had less than 100 yards to go," Manny said.

A retired high-ranking SDPD officer has said of the BARF unit: "I never liked the idea, recommended against it. I knew it would end like it did, in a shoot-out with the Tijuana cops."

They came upon two Tijuana officers in full uniform, 100 meters into U.S. territory. The Mexican policemen's stories were that they had followed bandits across. Manny doesn't buy it. "Anytime you got

Mexican cops this far over the border, they're the bandits," he said. "There's no doubt in my mind that's why they were here. Why else would they shoot at my men, when we had our guns and badges out? That's why I was so steamed when we chose not to prosecute."

"That's another thing in the book that made me wonder about you," I countered. "When you threatened to quit when they didn't prosecute. That's a breakdown in discipline. Chief Kolender should have accepted your resignation."

Manny grinned. "I'd have fired me on the spot," he replied.

4-Wheeling Across The Border

San Ysidro is the border town on the U.S. side. It's actually a part of San Diego, but its feel is very different: all flash and junk, fast-food joints, places to change dollars into pesos and back again. The streets are filled with tourist autos, junker cars and roaming Mexicans. It's fairly easy

to tell Mexican-Americans from the just plain Mexicans by their carriage and their dress. The Mexican-Americans have the usual long-legged, confident American stride, while the Mexicans move with shoulders hunched, eying the sky as though it's about to fall.

Interstate 5 runs right through San Ysidro into Mexico, where it becomes the Tijuana-Ensenada highway. East

of the highway, next to the TraveLodge, is the squat gray headquarters of San Diego P.D.'s Southern Division. I wheeled into the parking lot, wondering if the 4-wheel-drive Chevy Suburban parked in front of the building, facing out for a fast getaway, were my guys.

As I walked toward the truck, its doors opened and two young men got out. They didn't move like patrol cops. They moved and acted like Green Berets. Their uniforms were short-sleeve khakis, their badges sewn-on cloth, their utility belts were of heavy nylon webbing. Their weapons were 9mm auto pistols; modern weapons.

They were both in their mid-to-late 20s and in super shape, broad at the shoulders, no bulge at the waist. Even in your 20s, you don't stay in that kind of shape unless you work at it. One was a blond guy and one was Hispanic. Both wore mustaches. The blond one introduced himself as Jim Clift and the other as Dave Garcia. They both had what used to be described as

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SOF EXCLUSIVE:



SPETSNAZ

From "Caravan Hunters" to Elite Police Force

by Jim Shortt

A blue Toyota flatbed speeds along a dirt road, leaving a choking plume of boiling dust in its wake. Mujahideen freedom fighters sitting in the rear of the vehicle are unaware they have but moments to live.

A hidden camera filming them from above pans to a handful of troops crouched behind a rock crest overlooking the road. Ignoring the cameraman, they await a signal, Soviet-issue AKMSs and AKS-74s held at low port.

Bareheaded except for one wearing a sun-bleached field cap, they silently crouch in their green uniforms. They do not show the nervous orderliness of con-

scripts — reflecting rather the easy discipline of professionals.

The blue flatbed swerves as a fusillade of high-velocity rounds slams into its cab. The ambushers break firing momentarily and crouch low behind the crest, while the mujahideen wildly return fire at their unseen enemy. A grenadier on the crest then fires a round from his BG-15 Tishina 40mm grenade launcher, which explodes in the flatbed's rear, blasting the mujahideen onto its deck or into the dusty road. Even as the Toyota explodes, the grenadier rapidly reloads from his specialized ammo belt and again fires at the burning vehicle.

Further bursts of automatic fire spray

the truck and the prone mujahideen before the ambush party descends to inspect its work. They police up the weapons and gaze at contorted bodies broiling in the rear of the flaming vehicle.

Above: Soviet Spetsnaz group, Paktia province, 1985. Left to right, troopers are armed with: AKS-74, AKM mounting BG-15 grenade launcher, AKM and Makarov pistol, PKM machine gun, AKS-74 with night sight and mounting BG-15 grenade launcher; last man carries RPG-18 grenade launcher plus a Dragunov sniper rifle and Stechkin machine pistol.

Photo: Author's collection.

Karavan Okhotniki

The ambushers were Spetsnaz — known among troops of the Soviet 40th Army in Afghanistan as *Karavan Okhotniki* — the caravan hunters. The film footage described above and now in my library is among the very few existing of Spetsnaz in combat.

I remember watching this film in the summer of 1987, before departure to Afghanistan to work with NIFA (National Islamic Front for Afghanistan) mujahideen. I was warned that one of the greatest dangers in moving around Afghanistan, particularly within the Paktia province, was ambush by Spetsnaz.

While in Afghanistan, Spetsnaz had a clearly defined role. Mass airborne/commando-style assaults were left to the Soviet 103rd Guards Airborne Division. The primary role of Spetsnaz was to interdict mujahideen insertion and supply routes from Pakistan and Iran, very similar to U.S. Special Forces operations along the Ho Chi Minh trail during the Vietnam War. In sharing its common border with Pakistan, the Paktia province became a beehive of Spetsnaz activity.

Three separate Soviet organizations operated special-designation forces in Afghanistan — the Soviet army general staff's GRU (*Glavnoe Razvedivatelnoe Upravlenie* — Chief Administration for Intelligence), the KGB (*Komitet Gosudarstvennoi Bezopastnosti* — Committee of State Security) and the MVD (*Ministerstvo Vnutrennykh Del* — Ministry of Internal Affairs).

The MVD special forces of the former Soviet Union existed at two levels — those drawn from centrally controlled MVD troops and those drawn from a republic's local police. Personnel of the MVD's Felix Dzerzhinsky Division, however, don't call themselves Spetsnaz, but *Spetsnazovets*. This unit was formed in December 1977 to give the USSR a hostage-rescue force equivalent to the U.S. Delta.

Their expertise in storming buildings was put to use when elements of the unit were detailed to assist the KGB's Department 8 with taking Darulaman Palace in Kabul for the murder of Afghan President Amin. On this operation, the MVD Spetsnaz were under control of the MVD's second in command — Major General Viktor Semenovich Paputin, who had acted as a liaison between Amin and Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev. Later, Afghan Interior Ministry special troops would undergo training with the Soviet MVD *Spetrota* (special group).

Into Afghanistan

The Soviets had planned an invasion of Afghanistan since May 1979, following the massacre of Soviet advisers and their families in Herat. Two special army

divisions, composed of Tadjik and Uzbek nationals, were positioned along the Soviet-Afghan border dressed in DRA (Afghan) uniforms. Though intended as a special anti-mujahideen unit, they became suspect because of their Moslem background and the unsuccessful deployment of some of their detachments to Afghanistan.

These two divisions were to be chaperoned by the 105th Guards Airborne Division, reinforced with a further two regiments detached from the 103rd and 104th Guards Airborne divisions. (See "Gerominov," Jan. '90.) The invasion of Afghanistan began on 28 December 1979.

For specific building assaults, MVD Spetsnaz were borrowed along with members of a GRU Soviet army Spetsnaz brigade, their mutual security provided by an airborne battalion. Quieter BTR APCs were used, leaving Bagram air base soon after landing and heading for Darulaman Palace. An Afghan sentry who opposed them as they left Bagram was dispatched with a silenced Stetchkin machine pistol. Three BMD-1 airborne combat vehicles were dedicated to taking out the palace gates.

The airborne battalion was given the job of eliminating all opposition outside the palace. A Spetzgroup lead by Colonel Boyarinov, the Balashikha school commander, then stormed the building and ran into heavy opposition from Amin's personal bodyguards. Boyarinov's Spetzgroup started taking heavy casualties, and Boyarinov ran out to get some of the airborne battalion to bolster his assault. Unfortunately, he had given an order that anyone running from the building was to be shot, and this the airborne troopers did — killing their mission

commander. The Spetzgroup of MVD and GRU personnel eliminated everyone in the building. Only Lieutenant Colonel Mikhail Talybov survived by hiding under stairs until, in his own words, "the Spetzgroup sounded human," then he emerged and identified himself.

Afghanistan Operations

During the Afghan war, in their attempt to close the mujahideen supply routes, the Soviets not only utilized GRU Spetsnaz, they also used special units from the KGB border guards directorate — the KGB's private army.

Because mujahideen units based themselves in mountain terrain, GRU Spetsnaz were given the role of assaulting mountain bases. They often secured landing zones for parachute and helicopter assaults.

A typical operation occurred in May 1987 at Jegdalay in Kabul Province, where a Spetsnaz brigade carried out a successful textbook assault. In January 1988, I spoke with NIFA survivors of that action. The assault was on a NIFA base located on a plateau 3,000 meters above the Saroubi-Kolala road.

The caravan hunters were issued specialized equipment, such as Stetchkin 9mm machine pistols with attachable silencers, Makarov pistols with integral sound suppressors, and sound suppressors for their AKMS, AKS-74 and AKS-74U shoulder weapons. Image intensifier (starlight) scopes for night vision were

Mujahideen prisoners from 1986 ambush being interrogated by Spetsnaz trooper armed with Makarov pistol. Prisoners were later "disposed of."

Photo: Author's collection.



SOVIET SPECIAL OPERATIONS

The KGB was formed in March 1954, and from the beginning it included a special operations unit. During World War II, the NKVD (*Narodnyi Komissariat Vnutrennikh Del* — People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, predecessor of the KGB) created special-mission units called OMS-BON (separate [independent] motorized special-purpose brigades). Under the KGB structure, their mantle was passed to "V" Department — directly controlled through the KGB chairman.

Following the 1971 defection of Oleg Lyalin, an officer of V Department, to the British MI6 intelligence agency, V was disbanded in 1972. Its role passed to the "8th" Department of "S" Directorate, formed in 1973.

The role of the S Directorate was the management and training of "illegal" agents outside of the USSR. The 8th Department handled "direct action" — a euphemism for sabotage and assassination. The department ran a school specializing in this near Moscow at Balashikha, in addition to providing instructors for the central "101" 1st Directorate school, another institution tasked with training illegals for covert direct action missions.

Ivan Anisimovich Fadeikin, a KGB lieutenant general, was typical of 8th Department officers. A former partisan deputy commander during World War II, he had become chief of V Depart-

ment. In 1961 he was sent to Teheran to assassinate the Shah, following the CIA-instigated coup in Iran which had installed the ruler. A Volkswagen car packed with explosives was positioned along the route between the *Majlis* (parliament) and the Shah's palace in February 1962 but failed to explode as the Shah's entourage passed. Fadeikin, assuming the name of Fadeev, returned to Teheran in March 1978 as the resident KGB agent.

The 8th Department was designed to create diversions and also carry out assassinations and sabotage, but after its foundation it was given only a few "Central Committee special tasks," as these direct-action jobs were called. Few, that is, until September 1979 when Lieutenant Colonel Mikhail Talybov, an active illegal of the 8th Department with documentation as an Afghan, was sent in to assassinate Amin, the Afghan president. He got a job as a cook and tried to poison Amin on a number of occasions, but without success.

Department 8 was thought to have an input into Alpha team training. Certainly KHAD (Afghan secret police) personnel were trained by Department 8 for infiltration into the mujahideen groups, to carry out assassination and sabotage.

— J.S.

mounted on PKM machine guns, as well as on AKS and AKM assault rifles. Although these sound-suppressed weapons were used to dispatch the odd sentry, they were primarily used for killing dogs, which guarded mujahideen bases and Afghan villages in droves.

Later in the war, the Spetsnaz formed dedicated "Stinger hunter" teams, primarily to acquire Stinger technology and to safeguard Soviet aviation assets.

Spetsnaz Stinger hunter teams were deployed in two or more Mi-8 (Hip) helicopters, with an Mi-24 (Hind) riding shotgun — all equipped with flare dispensers for defense against those Stingers they were hunting.

After Afghanistan

In 1987 former GRU Spetsnaz, many of whom were *Afghansi* (i.e., they had served in Afghanistan), were recruited into special units of the KGB Border Guards Directorate, which were formed into OSNAZ (*Otriad Spetsialobo Naznachenia* — Special-Designation Special Purpose Detachments) with subgroups called "Alpha" teams. Their public, publicized role was hostage rescue, and 12- to 20-man teams were eventually posted with the

KGB in every Soviet republic.

The training manual for Alpha teams was written by A.I. Dolmatov, chief Alpha instructor, based at the Dynamo sports complex in Moscow. Published in 1989, this manual borrows heavily from the standard Spetsnaz text of 1945 on reconnaissance, prisoner snatching and transportation. Dolmatov, however, added large sections illustrating assassination methods and tactics for kidnapping subjects off the street — even illustrations of OSNAZ killing U.S. personnel (wearing Special Forces and 1st Cavalry patches).

During the conflict in the Baltics between 1989 and 1991, Alpha team personnel in Latvia and Lithuania carried out a series of murders and attempted murders — often disguised as army airborne troopers. The storming of the Lithuanian TV station in January 1991 that resulted in many civilian deaths was spearheaded by Alpha team members, as was the July 1991 murder of 11 Lithuanian policemen and border guards.

While working in the Baltic states since 1990, I have met many Baltic and Russian Spetsnaz, most of whom served in Afghanistan. Over countless glasses of *Sama-gonkha* (moonshine vodka), we swapped lies and talked about Afghanistan.

The government teams I have trained and operated with in Estonia and Latvia are largely staffed with *Afghansi* ex-Spetnaz, most of them based with the Vilyandi Brigade in central Estonia. In August 1991, former Spetsnaz within Estonian police teams defied a battalion from the Spetsnaz brigade base at Pechory, which arrived with the 76th Guards Airborne Division from Pskov to seize the Tallinn television tower.

The *Afghansi* and former Spetsnaz I am now helping to train as national security forces for the newly free Baltic states have always been capable soldiers — now they will fight for a good cause.

A frequent contributor to SOF, Irishman Jim Shortt has written many articles on special operations forces in Europe while training Western armed forces and police units in defense against Spetsnaz activity. In 1991, he became the first outsider to train KGB personnel (Crimean area). Shortt also helped train Afghan mujahideen, and for the last two years has been actively training security forces in the newly independent Baltic states.

Author (black uniform) trains antiterrorist units at Tallinn, Estonia, airport. Such units have many former Spetsnaz *Afghansi* armed with weapons and equipment confiscated from KGB Alpha teams after 1991 Soviet coup attempt. Photo: courtesy Jim Shortt.



SPETSNAZ IN OUR BACK YARD

One of the most obvious targets for Soviet Spetsnaz activity since World War II has been the United States, where Spetsnaz efforts primarily involved — but were by no means limited to — the gathering of intelligence and technology.

Missions on U.S. soil were chiefly conducted by Soviet and Warsaw Pact agents, while national surrogates were most often used in foreign theaters. A latter case in point during the Vietnam War was the raid on Site 85 in Laos, a classified signal post staffed with U.S. Air Force technicians whose activities were critical to U.S. planes flying from Udorn, Thailand, for the bombing of North Vietnam.

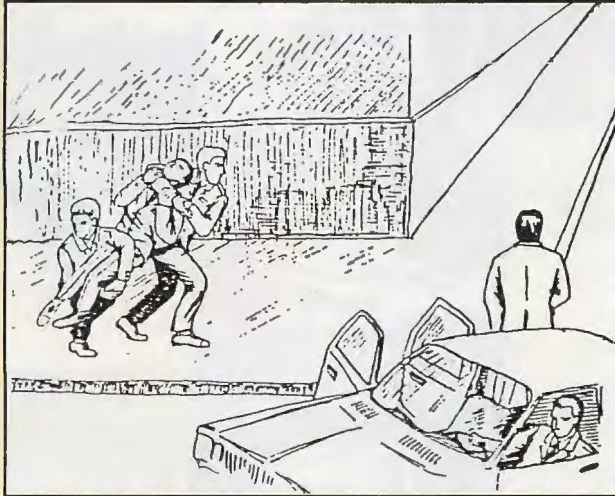
In a textbook Spetsnaz operation, specially trained NVA commandos designated as "766" scaled the overhanging cliff where Site 85 was located. Their specific mission was to take prisoners whose technical expertise was wanted by the Soviets. Also, the attacks on the U.S. and Philippine embassies in Saigon during the Tet Offensive were carried out by Spetsnaz-trained NVA surrogates.

While Western intelligence services tended to rely on technology to gather information and conduct covert operations because it was the resource they had the most of, Soviet and other com-bloc countries tended to use incredible armies of agents — for the same reason.

With the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, such legions of opportunistic agents defected that they became a drag on the market. When months before, they could have commanded a comfortable defector's pension, they quickly found the best deal they could cut with the Germans was a ho-hum promise of no prosecution if they came clean.

On U.S. soil, the openness of American society and the obtuse demeanor of some Soviet operatives have led

to rather audacious activity. A great deal of it has gone unnoticed in what is by nature our relatively chaotic culture — but some has not. For instance, the reason there were no Soviet consular offices in the United States until the beginning of the "détenté" era was that the United States had tired of people literally being dragged off the street, kicking and



The 1989 KGB Alpha Team manual illustrates that skill and finesse needn't go hand in hand; e.g., the crude but effective technique of body snatching. Such gauche behavior got Soviet consulates kicked out of the United States for many years. Illustration from *Special Physical Training, Second Revised Edition*, published by the Central Council of the "Dynamo" Physical Culture and Sports Organization as "regulations for physical preparation and organization of the working masses."

screaming in broad daylight, to disappear into the maw of Soviet consular offices. In spite of the deserved Russian reputation for their being masters of the Machiavellian plot, such crude body snatches were more than even quiescently good-natured Uncle Sam could stomach, so the Soviet consular offices were sent packing.

But for every such gross blunder that becomes public, there are uncounted missions, operations and programs that go undetected, even by U.S. counterintelligence organizations. In a general sense, we knew what the Soviets were doing simply because we knew what we would be doing in their place — but specifically who was doing what, to whom and where, was not always known. What was known was painstakingly kept from the public, both to prevent a tabloid-incited society from upsetting diplomatic apple-carts and to avoid tipping off the Soviets to what we knew of their activities.

Caches of Soviet equipment along with modular bases for covert activities have been almost routinely uncovered in the United States and other NATO countries, as well as undertakings and incidents for which no other logical explanations exist. A case in point would be Spetsnaz activity in Alaska and the Aleutians.

Although the idea was roundly denied, even ridiculed, by U.S. military and government spokesmen, *Soldier Of Fortune* staffer Tom Bates went to Alaska and uncovered concrete evidence and eyewitnesses to substantiate reports of such Spetsnaz activity. Also, shortly after the consumptive collapse of the Warsaw Pact alliance, Bates had occasion to interview former com-bloc Spetsnaz operatives, whose incredulous reaction to his question of Spetsnaz activity in Alaska in effect said "Poor child, are you serious? Of course there were continual Spetsnaz operations in Alaska."

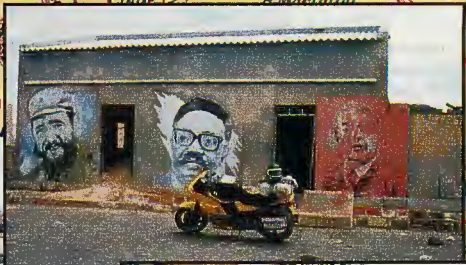
Books could be written — and now no doubt will be — about Spetsnaz operations in or against the United States, and not as a result of *glasnost* — but rather as a result of the growing pool of Spetsnaz veterans who no longer owe allegiance to the former central Soviet government or to the communist party.

— Don McLean



Free Estonian antiterrorist units are equipped with gear and weapons confiscated from KGB Alpha teams after attempted Soviet military coup of August 1991. Trooper here wears titanium riot helmet, camouflage-pattern body armor, and carries seldom-seen Stechkin APS selective-fire pistol.

Photo: Jim Shortt



Angola, a country ravaged by war during the 1970s and 1980s, now lies dormant, licking its wounds while trying to build up a sound infrastructure from among the various military factions still wandering aimlessly between minefields and debris left over from the war years.

My partner and I traveled in this area back in 1981, after we left service with the South African Defense Force (SADF) in the Angolan War. We rode through South West Africa (Namibia) on motorcycles fitted with long-range fuel tanks, to visit elite troops stationed 3,500km northwest of Johannesburg. This dangerous trip was quite successful and we received an open invitation from the chief of the SADF to visit any unit we wished, offering meals and excellent accommodations at a nominal rate.

Since that time, we have organized annual tours up to the Angolan border. On our first trip after the SADF's 1989 withdrawal from the area, we traveled into

CLOCKWISE: Propaganda paintings of Castro, Dr. Neto and Brezhnev grace demolished buildings in Quito, motorcyclists surrounded by FAPLA troops, at garrison just outside of Lubango, Angola; author Ray Muller with abandoned Soviet ammunition at a former military control point; Soviet military adviser (kneeling, left) with tour members and two FAPLA officers (in civilian attire).

areas that had been impossible to see during the war.

On our arrival at the Oshikango/St. Clara border post, we were approached by the chief of staff of SWAPO (South West African People's Organization), our former enemy in Angola. He was polite, friendly and fascinated by our motorcycles. With some reservations about our safety, we accepted his invitation to come across to the Angolan side of the border. There we met the highest ranking FAPLA (Army for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Angola) officers in the

UNEASY RIDERS

War and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance in Angola

Text & Photos by Ray Muller

region, who took us on a sightseeing tour of the decimated area on a Soviet-manufactured Gaz truck.

It was this trip that inspired us to organize a 1991 "Recce Run" into Angola — named after South Africa's elite reconnaissance units. Our advertisements offered nothing but 9,000 kilometers in nine days, roaming groups of bandits from both sides of the war, sleeping wherever and whenever, no roads once we got to Angola, and no medical attention inside Angola whatsoever, except for what we could carry. There were many landmines, mosquitoes carrying diseases immune to any form of medication (ask me, I was virtually in a coma for two weeks after contracting malaria), along with sweltering heat, just to mention a few attractions.

Eight BMW motorcycles with a logistical vehicle carrying water, food, fuel and backup parts for possible breakdowns left Johannesburg with intentions of living off military-style ration packs and overnighting when and where convenient.

Our major problem was obtaining the high-octane fuel required for our high-powered motorcycles. Angola only had 43-octane fuel, which cost about 23 cents per liter and was undoubtedly detrimental to our engines. We contacted some very resourceful operators who had 600 liters of 93-octane fuel dropped in Lubango, approximately 700km north of Oshikango, along with another 600 liters dropped on the coast at Namibe, approximately 200km west from Lubango.

Our motorcycles were fully loaded — we each had clothing for two weeks, and survival equipment including 10 liters of water which could be replenished from the backup vehicle and would be needed to curtail dehydration, especially with the high temperatures up north.

Our border-crossing into Angola went smoothly and we headed north with thick rain clouds hanging overhead.

On entering Xangongo, approximately 250km from the border, we noticed two Soviet T-55 tanks parked along the road-

side. Of course we had to stop and study this armament. As we approached them, the tank commander came running out of the bush, offering his assistance to open the locked tank hatches while trying to explain in Portuguese the working of their insides.

All weapons within the tanks were fully cocked and loaded, and the numerous ammo cases covering the tanks' exteriors were filled to the brim with rusted and damaged belts of 20mm.

AK-47 Garage Sale

We learned from two Europeans now residing in Xangongo that these tanks and several others in the vicinity could not be used, as there was no fuel to run them and also no batteries. There were also AK-47 assault rifles available at a giveaway price of R20 (20 Rand, approximately \$5) each.

A number of United Nations personnel, who welcomed our European faces,

Continued on page 72

GUN GESTAPO

BATF Brownshirts Terrorize Tulsa

by James L. Pate
Photos Courtesy NRAAction

WITH weapons drawn and battering rams ready, about 30 U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF) agents split into three groups of 10 each. Sirens screaming, blue lights pulsing, they had just roared into a quiet residential neighborhood adjacent to downtown Tulsa, Oklahoma, blocking traffic as they piled out of several unmarked vehicles last 16 December.

Curious spectators paused over their sandwiches across the street at the Sonic drive-in, while neighbors gawked as the federal agents bunched up by the front and rear doors of a modest green-and-white frame house flying an American flag. A third group of agents hunched between a shed and a boat trailer in the back yard.

There was no knocking, only the splintering of wood and cracking of steel as the doorjamb and locks shattered. "They just lined up at the front door, slammed it with the battering ram and all rushed inside," said a witness who had watched from across the street.

Led by Agent P. Blair Ward of the BATF's Tulsa office, the team was pretty sure no one was home. But they took no chances, storming through the three-bedroom, one-story house in seconds. Then they began execution of their search warrant.

Cutting off two locks securing a gun

safe in the living room, the agents pulled out and examined the 15 rifles, shotguns and several pistols inside. Of particular interest was an AR-15, the only "assault" rifle in the collection and the only weapon specifically mentioned in the search warrant. Boxes of ammunition and gun magazines were dumped unceremoniously on the floor.

Fast, Furious, Fruitless

The search apparently was thorough, fast and furious. A leather holster was flung aside, landing in a bucket of water used by three Labrador retrievers living in the home. Clothes were jerked from closet hangers and thrown to the floor, with dresser drawers dumped. A double bed was overturned, its mattresses tossed askew. A small lockbox found underneath was beaten open with a hammer, yielding only a small collection of antique coins — left lying where they fell.

Kitchen cabinets and drawers were yanked open, their contents spilled across counters and onto floors; personal papers and files were poured from a desk and left scattered. An agent pushed out ceiling tiles in his search, until the table he was standing on collapsed into a broken heap.

By this time, TV news crews were outside, where BATF agents cut the lock off the home's shed, leaving its contents of power tools and fishing equipment in a similar shambles. The agents were about to smash the lock on a motor home parked in the backyard when the next-door neighbor came over and provided a key, saying the vehicle was his.

Their job complete, the agents left three things: a copy of the search warrant, a terse note scribbled on scratch paper with a pink felt-tip pen — "Nothing taken. ATF" — and a big mess. They walked out, leaving the doors ajar, with the guns and other valuables lying out for whoever

might walk in and want them. It might have been a textbook search for thoroughness, except for two things: Nothing illegal was recovered — and John Lawmaster, the citizen who lives there, had obviously done nothing wrong.

Not only did the BATF raid turn

American flag proudly flies from John Lawmaster's modest home, symbolic of his belief in a country guaranteeing the rights of law-abiding citizens to, among other things, keep and bear arms and be secure in their persons, papers and homes. The flag still flies at Lawmaster's house, though the BATF raid has cast a shadow over his confidence in the U.S. Bill of Rights' guarantees.



Lawmaster's home — and his life — upside down, it also ripped at the fabric of the U.S. Constitution, providing an ironic but enlightening beginning to a third century of American life under the Bill of Rights.

Happy Birthday, Bill Of Rights

Just one day before, Lawmaster had watched televised reports of President George Bush leading the nation in a 200th birthday celebration for the Bill of Rights, adopted 15 December 1791. Not a legal scholar, Lawmaster had never studied the Constitution. But like many Americans, he cherishes the document as a sacred cornerstone of life in these United States.

Lawmaster admits he had taken his rights for granted. He assumed that if he'd never done anything wrong, and the Bill of Rights guaranteed "the right of the people to keep and bear arms" and "the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures," then, as a law-abiding citizen, he never had to worry about his rights.

Now, he knows better.

"This was like something out of Nazi Germany," Lawmaster told *SOF*. "My house looked like the Gestapo had led a bunch of storm troopers through it. I didn't think anything like this could happen in the United States."

Like most people who have had a rural upbringing, Lawmaster, 44, is a friendly, open and easygoing man — burly and bearded, fond of bib overalls, a lifelong Oklahoman who, with the exception of an occasional traffic ticket, has never before had a run-in with the law.

The 16 December BATF raid changed all this. It not only upset Lawmaster's simple, lawful life, it left his neighbors frightened and intimidated.

Five people who witnessed the raid were interviewed by *SOF*. All five agreed to be quoted only on the condition that their names not be printed, citing either direct intimidation by BATF agents at the scene or fear that their homes would be turned upside down by the BATF in retribution.

Most upset was Lawmaster's friend and next-door neighbor, who also happens to own Lawmaster's house. "It scared him to death, put the fear of God in him," Lawmaster said.

"You're One Of Them"

This neighbor declined to be interviewed, but confirmed he was the man wearing a National Rifle Association baseball cap mentioned in a story about the raid in the January issue of *NRAAction*, published by the NRA's Institute for Legislative Action.

Even after providing a key to search his motor home — which was not listed in the search warrant — and after also being cooperative in other ways, the BATF agents remained antagonistic toward



John Lawmaster secured his guns from criminals and kids behind two locks in a steel gun safe. To execute the warrant, BATF agents destroyed the locks, then, finding nothing illegal, left the house with the safe — and even the front door — wide open, leaving unprotected guns and ammo strewn about.

Lawmaster's neighbor.

After the neighbor confirmed to the agents that Lawmaster owned an AR-15 — something the agents already knew after breaking into Lawmaster's gun safe — the agents asked the neighbor if the weapon had an auto sear, which would enable the rifle to fire fully automatic.

"My neighbor said, 'I don't know.' But my neighbor had an NRA cap on, so the agent said, 'lapse of memory, huh?' " Lawmaster told *NRAAction*. In addition, this agent reportedly nodded toward the neighbor's cap and said, "You're one of them, and you don't know what an auto sear is?"

Lawmaster told *SOF* his neighbor said the BATF agents threatened him with seizure of his property and other acts if he did not cooperate in their search.

Other neighbors of Lawmaster were just as outraged — and just as intimidated by the actions of BATF's "public servants."

"It was awful," said an attractive young secretary living nearby with her family. "I saw all these TV reporters and all these undercover officers with ATF on their jackets ... [They] were stopping people, asking them where they were going, if they lived in the neighborhood."

She described Lawmaster, a four-year

neighborhood resident, as "a really nice guy ... always friendly, always says hello, ready to help if you need it."

"It's Outrageous"

"What I don't understand is how they could do that to his house and he wasn't even home, hadn't broken any law," the secretary noted. "Sure, he has guns. I know lots of people in Tulsa who own guns. But owning guns doesn't make you a bad person, much less a criminal."

Although she could see that Lawmaster's house was open and unprotected after the BATF left, "I was afraid to go up and close the door because I thought I would be arrested."

"The man wasn't even home," groused another of Lawmaster's neighbors who witnessed the raid and knows Lawmaster. "He's never caused anybody any trouble. The kicker is we have problems with druggies at the other end of the block, and we call and call, but the police never do anything about that. So what do the cops do? They come in here and tear up the home of one of our good citizens. It's outrageous."

Gone at the time of the raid, Lawmaster returned shortly after the BATF had left. He found both his front and back doors smashed and ajar. "When I walked in, there was ammunition and guns lying everywhere," Lawmaster told *SOF*. "The ammo was scattered on the floor from the living room into the dining room ... Anybody could have walked in and stolen anything they wanted."

"It was totally ransacked," added



AR-15 rifle (center of safe) was only weapon mentioned in search warrant — and it was perfectly legal.

another neighbor, who had walked over to look after seeing Lawmaster arrive. “They tore that house apart completely. And for nothing. Just made a huge mess and walked out.”

Lawmaster estimates physical damage losses, such as for repairing doors to his house and shed, as well as harm to furniture and other household contents, as costing “at least \$1,000.” But, the BATF was hardly contrite when he called to inquire “just what in the hell was going on.” He talked to an Agent Ward.

“I asked, ‘Are you gonna arrest me?’ and he said, ‘No.’ I asked him who was going to clean up and repair my house. And he said, ‘If you’re going to talk to me, come down to my office.’”

“‘I can’t come down,’ I said,” Lawmaster told *NRAAction*. “‘My doors are broken!’ If I had been on vacation and

I didn’t have friendly neighbors, I would have lost everything I own.”

BATF’s Mistake — Lawmaster’s Loss

Agent Ward then told him that he, not the BATF, would have to pay for repairs, according to Lawmaster. When the homeowner responded that under those circumstances, he would bring an attorney with him to the BATF office, Ward replied that if he brought an attorney along, they wouldn’t see him, Lawmaster recalled.

“I can’t speak to any media person about this,” Ward said when called by *SOF*. He referred the reporter to “my boss,” David Roberts, who heads the BATF’s Tulsa office.

“Mr. Lawmaster made a complaint to his congressman,” Roberts said when contacted, “and a congressional inquiry has been initiated. So the ATF’s response — if they will give you a response — will have to come from our Washington office.”

Tom Hill, a spokesman in BATF’s

Washington, D.C., office, was no more enlightening. He declined to answer questions about what had prompted the search, what specific allegations were made in an affidavit on which the search warrant was based, or how much investigation was made into Lawmaster’s background or into the validity of such allegations prior to the no-knock raid.

“We executed the search warrant and consequently the affidavit was sealed,” Hill noted. “I can’t say anything else. We’re not allowed to comment.” He added that he also could not comment on why the affidavit was sealed.

Hill was skeptical that Lawmaster’s congressman, U.S. Representative James M. Inhofe, would be able to obtain any more information, noting that BATF’s refusal to comment “would [also] apply to a congressional inquiry. He [Inhofe] wouldn’t be entitled to any more information than anybody else.”

(Not Even) Sorry About That!

“Living in the United States all my life, I feel like if you haven’t done anything wrong, then the police can still come to your house to investigate in a reasonable manner,” Lawmaster noted, “but this was completely outrageous.

“They don’t have the right to come and kick down doors and tear up locks and throw your clothes down and then walk out and say, ‘I’m sorry, you didn’t do anything wrong, but we tore the hell out of your house.’ Only in this case, they haven’t even said they’re sorry,” he said.

Lawmaster is particularly incredulous about the callous way in which the BATF, supposedly an agency responsible for enforcement of gun laws and for keeping guns from criminal hands, just walked out and left his weapons and ammunition unsecured.

“They didn’t leave anybody to make sure my house and weapons were secure,” he said. “All my guns were laying out loose. Any of the neighbor kids that walked by saw all this going on. They could have come in and picked up a gun, and ammunition was all over the place.”

Now in the process of opening a gun shop in Tulsa, Lawmaster said he plans to take this *SOF* article and “put it in a great big frame and ... hang it in the gun shop. I want everybody to know that this happened to me, so when they buy a gun, they’ll know that it can happen to them, as well.

A former SOF Associate Editor, Jim Pate has filed stories from South America and Lebanon. He also covers federal court and congressional matters. ✂

HERITAGE FOUNDATION TRIES TO COVER UP (AGAIN)

by Paul Danish

In *Soldier Of Fortune's* January '92 issue, my article appeared reporting on how the Heritage Foundation, a conservative Washington-based think tank, played a key role in persuading George Bush to ban the import of several dozen semiautomatic versions of assault rifles. Several months since, Heritage Foundation President Edwin J. Feulner Jr. is still trying to cover his ass.

Recently, we've received several copies of the letter Feulner has been sending to outraged *SOF* readers who have written him demanding an explanation for the Heritage Foundation's role in the assault rifle ban. In it, Feulner claims *SOF* has misrepresented his position: "I was sorry to see that magazine [*SOF*] misrepresent the factual record for no apparent reason."

Feulner also maintains that "*Soldier Of Fortune* took a single moment from

For the purpose of defining the class of banned imports, however, BATF should consider including semiautomatic guns capable of holding more than 6 rounds at one time (NRA may not accept a limit of less than 10).

years ago to grossly distort my overall view on the question of a citizen's right to bear arms."

I think otherwise, and I also think the best way to settle this dispute is to allow *SOF* readers to decide for themselves. Reprinted here are excerpts from the original memo Feulner sent to President Bush on 15 March 1989.

I'd like to draw your attention to the following points:

1.) On page 2 of the memo, Feulner recommends to the president that the federal government "Permanently ban the import of automatic or semiautomatic assault weapons ... " This was in fact done.

2.) Also on page 2 and continuing on page 3, Feulner recommends that prior to making this ban permanent, the president should tell the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (BATF) to draw up guidelines defining the

Make it a federal crime for anyone to possess or transport across state line any weapon in a manner that violates the laws of either states. Such a federal law is necessary to prevent individuals from purchasing a gun in a state with lenient gun laws and transporting it into a state with stricter laws. The federal government can exercise this power under the Commerce Clause of the Constitution.

weapons to be banned on the basis of their ability to accept large-caliber magazines. This was also done.

3.) On page 3, Feulner calls for basing the ban on the physical appearance of the rifle. This, too, was done.

4.) On page 3, Feulner suggests that it should be "a federal crime for anyone to possess or transport across state lines any weapon in a manner that violates the laws of either state." This has not been done, but if it ever is, this would put our federal government in the business of enforcing laws similar to California's and New Jersey's semiauto bans and New York's anti-handgun laws.

5.) And speaking of handguns, on page 2 Feulner calls for stricter enforcement of "existing laws requiring the registration of handguns." Since there are an estimated 1 million unregistered handguns in New York City alone, most owned by otherwise law-abiding citizens, implementation of this recommendation could lead to hundreds of thousands of law-abiding Americans being arrested and prosecuted.

In view of these points, I submit that Feulner's assertions that gun control laws "must not restrict the rights of law-abiding citizens," and that "government action to restrict the availability of assault rifles should focus on preventing the purchase of firearms for illegal means, while preserving the right of law-abiding citizens to purchase firearms," — he quotes this in his response to *SOF* readers — amounts to empty rhetoric.

Feulner claims he was quoted out of context by *SOF*. I think you should be the judge of that. Feulner also claims he believes in the Second Amendment. You can judge that for yourself as well. ✕

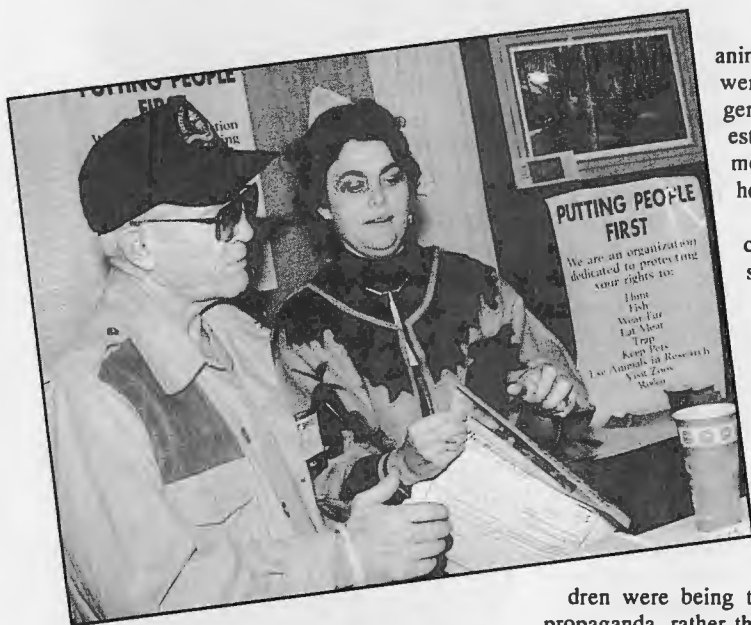
Appropriate federal action to restrict the supply of assault weapons include the following: Permanently ban the import of automatic or semiautomatic assault weapons without a permit from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

Many imported assault rifles have physical characteristics that give them the appearance of war weapons. Such "Rambo"-looking rifles have a strong appeal to individuals inclined to use the weapons for an unlawful purpose. BATF should consider such factors when establishing its guidelines for restricting imported guns.

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST

Lobby Group Takes on Animal "Terrorists"

Text & Photos
by Galen Geer



SOF Editor/Publisher Robert K. Brown visited with Kathleen Marquardt in the "Putting People First" booth at January's SHOT show in New Orleans.

Before 1990, most people were willing to believe that although the fight against animal rights activists wasn't really a lost cause, it just didn't seem to be getting anywhere. Then former model and airline stewardess Kathleen Marquardt decided someone had to bring the runaway animal-rights movement under control, so she and her like-minded friends jumped into the imbroglio of the animal rights controversy.

"Something had to be done," Marquardt told me. "The animal rights activists were steamrolling right over anyone who spoke out against them, and they were doing a lot of damage to animal welfare programs and wildlife management, plus shutting down vital research programs."

The attacks on research programs by the

animal rights movement weren't all that triggered Marquardt's interest — something much more personal pushed her into the fight.

"One day my kids came home from school, and told me they 'learned' from a PETA person who had been speaking for three days in their class that because I hunted, I was a murderer!" she recalled.

Marquardt was furious to discover her chil-

dren were being taught animal rights propaganda, rather than how to negotiate their way through modern life. At about the same time she learned the animal rights movement (specifically People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals [PETA] and Fund for Animals) had penetrated the school system, "Beyond Cruelty" by Katie McCabe was published by *Washingtonian* magazine. Here Marquardt learned even more about the animal rights movement and its financial dealings. She quickly decided the movement was more about collecting vast sums of money from well-meaning and caring Americans, and about being a cult, than it was about the welfare of animals.

Just as others had before her, Marquardt set out with her new enlightenment to find some way of bringing the animal rights movement under control before its havoc scuttled vital health research involving animals, along with proven wildlife management programs nationwide.

"I quickly discovered a serious flaw in the fight against the animal rights movement — there wasn't any group represent-

ing the broad, across-the-board [masses of] middle America. The groups that were out there at the time [1989-90] were all special interest groups oriented towards single-issue confrontations. To beat the animal rights movement, we needed a group representing 'people' in the broader sense, not just a specific group of animal users," Marquardt said.

Growing From The Grass Roots

Unable to locate such a broadly based grassroots group, Marquardt decided to put her considerable experience as a businesswoman and organizer to work. She also had another ace organizer in her pocket — her husband is an attorney representing social advocacy, non-profit organizations, so she was able to get free legal advice.

Setting up a group to fight the animal rights movement has not been easy. The logistics of the Putting People First (PPF) project were staggering, but it was attacks made on her by the animal rights advocates themselves that convinced her to go on. "The more we spoke out," Marquardt noted, "the more vile the attacks by the animal rights groups and their supporters became."

As PPF grew, memberships began flowing in from both individuals and groups or organizations. PPF developed a membership application form, which not only explained the organization's goals but also served as a petition to the U.S. Congress outlining the organization's and individual's opposition to the animal rights movement. It worked: PPF now has more than 35,000 members.

"We also got the hate mail and threats," Marquardt noted. "Some of the stuff that has been sent to us is among the most vulgar garbage I've ever seen, yet animal rights people want the public to believe they are pacifists."

As threats and hate mail began to

accumulate in the PPF office, Marquardt and other organizers dug in their heels and became more determined to see the issue through to the end. "Someone had to stand up to these groups. The animal rights groups seemed to be willing to do anything to stop us from organizing a group to oppose them," Marquardt said.

Animal rights activists' efforts to stop Marquardt backfired. Sending hate mail and threats provided the proof she needed to show something was terribly wrong with the animal rights movement. "Once we began to feel established, we went on the offensive against the animal rights activists," she said.

Being on the offensive meant using the same tactics against animal rights groups they had been using to gain sympathy and support from the public. "Whenever we learn about a protest being planned by animal rights activists, we try to organize a counter-protest, so the public will see our view and not just the animal rights group's viewpoints."

Taking The Battle To The Enemy

Opportunities for counterpoint-style public demonstrations have yielded excellent results and favorable press for PPF. In San Diego, PPF was able to field over 60 counter-demonstrators when animal rights groups planned a circus protest.

In Washington, PPF volunteers countered a protest from a PETA-clone organization called In Defense of Animals that picketed the Bethesda Naval Medical Center, where vital nerve-damage research is being performed on cats.

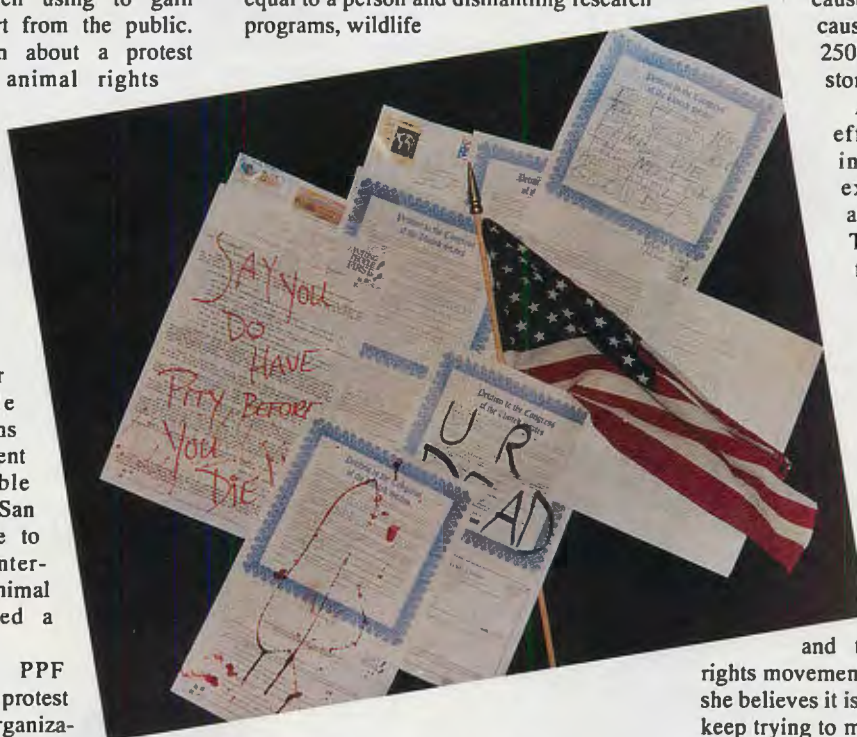
Some of PPF's best results have been through the media, where animal rights activists have tried to manipulate a broadcast for their viewpoint. As PPF spokeswoman, Marquardt has been very successful in systematically dismantling claims of the animal rights movement. One strength is her ability to remain calm and provide the broadcast audience with factual information on the activities and agenda of the animal rights groups.

"Once people learn how the movement has been responsible for the destruction of research facilities, programs and animal-husbandry centers, which ultimately affects the health and welfare of the public, sympathy for the movement begins to wane," Marquardt said.

PPF's staff realizes there is another facet to the battle — the courts. Various animal rights groups have discovered they can manipulate courts. PPF has retaliated

legally as well. One recent example occurred last October, when PPF filed a brief as *amicus curiae* with the Nevada Supreme Court to support Bob Berosini. The effort opposed a PETA appeal filed when a jury ruled against PETA in a multimillion-dollar defamation suit launched by Berosini.

Education is a primary PPF objective, as Marquardt believes the battle against the animal rights movement will be won through learning. "We've got to make people understand who the animal rights activists are and what they want," she said. "We've got to show people that the animal rights movement is not giving animals care and providing for their welfare, but is elevating them to a status equal to a person and dismantling research programs, wildlife



Samples of the hate mail and death threats Putting People First and Kathleen Marquardt receive from members of the animal rights movement.

management programs and forcing their views on the individual."

"Finally, when people learn the money they donate to the animal rights movement does not get used for animal welfare, they begin to understand the movement has misled them."

War Without A War Chest

Battling the animal rights movement takes cash. Marquardt has been running PPF on a shoestring budget, compared to the funding of animal rights groups. PETA alone posted a 1990 budget of more than \$9 million, according to Marquardt. Thus far, PPF has been operating on a budget that is one-eighteenth that — \$500,000. Even on this slim account, PPF is operating a fax information service, sending newsletters and press releases to

members and supporters nationwide.

Each PPF fax alerts people to the latest antics of animal rights groups, and what actions need to be taken. Periodically, the fax newsletter also provides fast-breaking news on animal rights terrorist actions. One example is last January's contamination of Canadian "Coldbuster" bars. These special candy bars were developed by physiologist Larry Wang of the University of Alberta to ward off hypothermia. The "Animal Rights Militia" sent a letter to the Edmonton offices of *The Canadian Press and Journal* in which the "militia" claimed to have tampered with 87 bars in two cities. Tests on samples sent with the letter confirmed one of the candy bars did contain a foreign caustic substance that would cause burning if ingested, so 250,000 bars were pulled from store shelves.

Another example of the effectiveness of the fax information service is exposing former Massachusetts Sen. Paul Tsongas as a paid lobbyist for the animal rights movement. Since 1985, Tsongas, a Democratic presidential contender, has been paid tens-of-thousands of dollars to advocate animal rights, according to PPF.

Look for PPF on the front lines of the battle against animal rights groups. Marquardt is willing to suffer the insults, slings, arrows and threats from the animal rights movement to expose it for the fraud she believes it is. Her opponents, however, keep trying to make her go away: It won't work. Her career has spanned being a Pan Am airline stewardess flying into various combat zones, including making at least 10 flights into Vietnam as a stewardess. She has endured the reality of combat, having been under mortar and small-arms fire while on a Pakistan rescue mission with Pan Am during the India-Pakistan war. The ploys of animal rights activists pale when compared to the real-world villains.

"Maybe it is because I do understand what the real world is like," she said, "that I am willing to endure their antics." Marquardt's willingness to battle the animal rights movement is one of the bright spots in our nation's struggle against animal terrorism.

For more information on PPF, write:

Putting People First, Dept. SOF, 4401 Connecticut Ave. N.W., Suite 310-A Washington, DC 20008-2302.

Galen Geer is SOF's Contributing Editor for Outdoor Affairs. ✉

FROM REFUGE TO LIBE

ON 2 August 1990, a Kuwaiti balloon-borne radar system detected large numbers of vehicles approaching the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border from the north. These radar signatures proved to be the vanguard of Iraq's massive invasion — three elite Republican Guards divisions.

Fleeing the country minutes ahead of a heliborne assault on his palace, Kuwait's Emir, Sheik Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, managed to avoid capture. His armed forces put up stiff resistance for the next 96 hours, retreating into Saudi Arabia only when their fuel and ammunition ran out. A small band of Kuwaiti soldiers elected to stay behind, forming the country's armed resistance movement.

Although they possessed two armored and one mechanized infantry brigades prior to the invasion, the Kuwaiti army's 25th and 15th brigades left most of their equipment behind. Kuwait's 35th Armored Brigade did somewhat better, both in terms of inflicting casualties on Iraqis,

and in slipping into Saudi Arabia with their tanks and weapons systems somewhat intact. But for all intents and purposes, the Kuwaiti army had been destroyed as an effective fighting force, with many of its senior officers fleeing to Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Europe and the United States.

Meanwhile, Back At Fort Campbell

At the time of the Iraqi's invasion, the U.S. 5th Special Forces (SF) Group was still reorganizing after a 1988 move from Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Two battalions were on-line, with a third barely organized. They were alerted immediately after the invasion to be prepared to move to Saudi Arabia.

One team leader reported, "The 3rd Battalion was brand new. We didn't have much of our equipment, including personal weapons. Many of us, including myself, had just reported for duty. As the situation became more serious we began believing we'd actually be deployed,

despite our organizational shortcomings." By 24 September, the 5th was declared fully operational, but their subsequent deployment to Saudi Arabia was not without problems. Though 3rd Battalion received a flood of needed equipment, their M16s, 203s and side arms would follow the teams to Saudi Arabia. A lack of air frames, along with shifting priorities for troop deployment, resulted in many false starts.

"We'd say goodbye to the families, leave for the planes, then return home when the movement would be canceled," one operator told me. "It created a lot of tension and stress on everyone's part — especially the married guys."

Adding to the stress of on-again, off-again flight schedules was a lack of hard intelligence concerning the 3rd's mission. Told that the 1st Battalion would be training Coalition forces in Foreign Internal Defense (FID), the 3rd believed they would receive direct action missions to be carried out against Iraqi command-and-control sites. It wasn't until they



ES RATORS

arrived at King Khalid Military City (KKMC) that the 3rd's command structure discovered what they were tasked to accomplish during Desert Shield.

Defining The Mission

"The 1st Battalion originally began FID training, but we heard they came on too strong and pissed off the Saudis. That's how we inherited their mission," an SF NCO said.

Stunned by the 120 degree Fahrenheit heat, and not sure of where they'd landed, the first teams to arrive at KKMC holed up for two days in an aircraft hanger while arrangements were made for them to move into the city.

"It was like a college campus," one trooper said. "We had to set up for the rest of the battalion, which meant each team got one room for their personnel and equipment. We were told by Colonel Johnson [the Special Operations Command Central — SOCCENT — commander] that we were 'at the front' and that Iraqi forces were less than an hour

away if they came over the border."

Indeed, the Saudis had pulled their forces back 20 miles from the Saudi-Kuwaiti border during the early days of Iraq's invasion. "They hoped to demonstrate to Saddam that they [the Saudis] weren't inclined to get involved militarily over Kuwait," a senior Special Operations Forces (SOF) officer said.

King Khalid Military City became the Forward Operational Base (FOB) for the 2nd and 3rd battalions, as well as for the 3/160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR) and parts of the 528th Special Operations Support Battalion.

In the meantime, the fate of a reconstituted Kuwaiti military force hung in the balance. With portions of their decimated army in both Egypt and Saudi Arabia, it appeared the Kuwaitis would be left to wait out the war while Coalition forces reconquered their country.

"They had a camp across from us at KKMC," one Green Beret said. "All sorts of people were showing up — police officers, air force personnel, even

U.S. Special Forces Turn Demoralized Kuwaitis into Fighting Force

by Greg Walker



Numerous .50-caliber Brownings were provided to the reconstituted Kuwaiti army, many of these mounted on Chevy pickup trucks and used as scout vehicles and gun "jeeps." Here, Kuwaiti soldiers celebrate a productive day on the range.
Photo: Sgt. 1st Class B. Head



It was a perfect area for ranges. Troops could fire every type of weapon, practice small unit movements, then conduct live-fire exercises combining the two. Photo: Sgt. 1st Class B. Head

Kuwaitis from America arrived. Probably 50% of those we trained were civilians with no military background. They all wanted to do something to get their country back." But with no organization or equipment, there was little that could be done except wait.

Finally, Major Mark Phelan, the commanding officer for B Company, 5th Special Forces, came up with a plan.

Potential Army Sitting In The Desert

"It is Major Phelan who deserves the credit for rebuilding the Kuwaiti army," Captain John Fenzel III, one of Phelan's team leaders, told me. "He saw the potential sitting there in the desert. Mark realized it was the classic unconventional warfare mission, only with a conventional twist. He wrote the program, staffed it, presented it to Colonel Johnson at SOCCENT and sold it as a Bravo Company tasking."

Originally directed to train a Kuwaiti commando battalion, the mission was altered to completely reorganize, equip and train several mechanized infantry brigades. Fenzel's newly formed A-Team found itself tasked to create a program of instruction meant to turn out a combat-ready force in time for the coming ground war. From the beginning, SF advisers were faced with challenges they'd only heard of while attending the qualification course at Fort Bragg.

"The Kuwaiti officers were very arrogant," one of Fenzel's team related. "There was no NCO corps. The officers were responsible for everything. In addition, the Kuwaiti army didn't have an effective personnel accountability system.

If a soldier didn't show up for morning formation, it wasn't a big deal as to where he might be, or what he might be doing."

As training began, it became apparent that the Kuwaiti officer corps would become solely dependent upon their advisers for direction. Used to a military life of simply giving orders and having someone else carry them out, the command structure was frozen when faced with having to act on its own.

One senior American NCO offered that "they were lost without us, for a variety of reasons ... their military culture and philosophy is totally different than ours, and a number of the officers at KKMC were 'young turks' in the Kuwaiti armed forces. They were committed to freeing Kuwait, but they were ill-equipped to do so on their own."

To Build An Army

As training began at KKMC, equipment became a priority. Phelan's teams were given almost total autonomy over their program, with higher headquarters seeing a Kuwaiti military force as a political consideration rather than a factor in the impending battle.

Leaders like Fenzel turned to their teams, drawing on their soldiers' years of conventional military expertise. Some 75% of those assigned to Phelan's command had just earned their berets, with few of the experienced advisers having actual FID experience.

"It was classic SF doctrine," reported Sergeant 1st Class Garren, Fenzel's highly capable team leader. "All of today's operators are second-term soldiers, meaning they've served at least one

brought to the teams by the new guys."

Broken down into committees, advisers prepared their classes, scouted and built ranges, scrounging equipment wherever they could find it. "We blamed everyone for the lack of gear," one trainer recounted, "but we later found out it was the Emir who intentionally held back everything we needed to get his army outfitted."

Fearing a well-equipped and trained army might overthrow him once the capital were retaken, Kuwait's ruler refused to sign the necessary paperwork to release thousands of tons of equipment waiting on docks in the United States and Saudi Arabia.

"Once he (the Emir) was back in Kuwait City, the paperwork was signed and stuff started rolling in like you wouldn't believe," a senior SF officer explained. "But by then, senior officers loyal to the Al Sabah family were back in-country and were retaking control of the military to avoid any chance of a coup, if one had ever even been considered."

To fight the war, Kuwaiti brigades were forced to rely on M-84 tanks (Yugoslav T-72 clones), Soviet BMPs, Chevy pickup trucks armed with .50-caliber machine guns, whatever small arms and munitions could be had — and guts. One trainer remembers the only "uniform" provided the infantry were British chemical suits, one per man. Within days, many of these were worn out and again exchanged for whatever clothing was available.

"Had the Iraqis used chemical weapons during the first hours of the ground war, the Kuwaitis would have been slaughtered," a 5th Group adviser stated.



enlistment in the conventional army. You might not have known a guy was qualified in antiaircraft defense until the class came up and he volunteered to teach it."

Speaking knowledgeably as a former Ranger and mountaineering instructor, Garren pointed out: "Nearly everyone has a basic infantry background, and that's what saved the day for us. Good, solid SF skills taught during the Q-course, and highly qualified conventional skills

Urban combat training was conducted at a mock city near KKMC. When ordered to move 30km into the desert where their live-fire ranges were located, 5th Group advisers lost this vital training area. Photo: USSOCOM PAO

Phelan assigned two SF NCOs per Kuwaiti company. From then on SF ran the show with little interference, as they slowly developed their charges' small unit

capability as a mechanized infantry force.

One day after Christmas, the Kuwaitis were moved 30km into the desert, which meant they could no longer use the mock city needed to train them in urban warfare. This decision was much questioned by SF trainers, who were aware their counterparts might be expected to fight block for block inside Kuwait City.

Bastard Children Of The Arab Coalition

"The Kuwaitis were the bastard children of the Arab coalition," one adviser said. "The Saudis had no use for them, and had to be fought with time and again just to get hard intelligence that the Kuwaitis could use. It became very frustrating to us, because they [the Kuwaitis] were so intent on being a part of the overall effort to win the war."

On 24 February 1991, the ground war began. SF trainers now became advisers in the strictest sense of the term. They'd been working feverishly since the day before, briefing their Kuwaiti field commanders and coordinating air support for the actual breaching of the berm separating Saudi Arabia from occupied Kuwait.

In addition to call signs, radio frequencies, and order-of-movement briefings, SOF forces were also told to cut their hair, trim mustaches and remove any and all personal flags/symbols from Kuwaiti armored vehicles. Moving only 300 meters the first day, the brigades "belonging" to B Company were sandwiched between the Saudis and Syrians, everyone trying to get positioned for the assault through the berm.

"When we finally got through on the 26th, the Arabs became euphoric," one adviser reported. "They were shooting their weapons into the air and acting as if we'd already recaptured Kuwait City. Our vehicles were bumper to bumper in the lane, minefields on either side of the column. Tactically, it was very unsound. The Saudis were firing rockets over the berm — some of them were reported to have hit their own people."

Ten kilometers inside Kuwait the column ground to a halt. Up front, the brigade commander was posing for pictures with two of his battalion commanders alongside an abandoned Iraqi mortar. A terse SF captain issued some strongly worded "advice" to the Kuwaiti officer, pointing out that his antics were stalling the entire brigade's advance toward the capital. Souvenir hunting would have to wait.

Celebratory gunfire was becoming so prevalent that SOF officers threatened to pull their teams away from the Kuwaitis if it wasn't brought under control. All around the stalled convoy were unlit fire trenches, heavily fortified bunker systems, minefields and scores of booby traps. The "green hats" wanted to get moving, remembering the Saudi rocket accidents and worried that the Iraqis might

counterattack at some point with whatever might be available.

On 27 February, the Kuwaitis made their first night movement. Not allowed to rehearse such an action during Desert Shield, U.S. advisers took control of the column and executed a near perfect march across the desert, arriving at their objective by 0600 the next morning.

"The Kuwaitis were afraid of the dark, so we didn't train at night," an SOF operator complained. "During the movement the Kuwaitis stopped to pray, which caused a real commotion as we were trying to make link-up at the appointed hour."

Arriving at a Kuwaiti military barracks on 28 February, the Americans were

Celebratory gunfire was becoming so prevalent that SOF officers threatened to pull their teams away from the Kuwaitis if it wasn't brought under control.

informed they would be detached from the brigades because U.S. General Norman Schwarzkopf had ordered that "no Americans would go past the sixth ring road outside of Kuwait City." The order was not well received by the U.S. advisers nor the Kuwaiti officers.

"It was not a popular decision, and it reminded many of us of the Bay of Pigs, Vietnam and other places where we earned our allies' trust and then abandoned them to fight on their own," one SF officer stated. "We were pulled away from the Kuwaitis a total of four times during the ground war. After each time, they'd link us back up once the decision was reversed. The Kuwaitis finally refused to go any further unless we were alongside them. Perhaps that's what turned the trick."

Perhaps, but another factor was intelligence. U.S. and Coalition forces had captured every objective but Kuwait City. Central Command needed hard information on what was going on inside the capital; intelligence that could only be provided by American eyes and ears. The advisers were ordered to proceed with their Kuwaiti companies, while all other Arab forces held were in place as the capital's liberation began in earnest.

Celebration Of Liberation And Vengeance

Entering the city, the Kuwaitis began firing their weapons in celebration. This caused problems as sporadic Iraqi resistance engaged Kuwaiti patrols and convoys. Each company was given a

sector of the city to clear. Some sectors had more than 250,000 inhabitants.

"It became very difficult to tell what fire was friendly and what was hostile," Fenzel said. "My team received permission to link back up with our battalion. When we reached their position, we found them clearing buildings, collecting weapons and ammunition, and questioning prisoners." One of Fenzel's team found a huge stockpile of ammo stored in a school building, the box markings indicating the munitions had come from Jordan.

Once in the city, SF advisers began directing the clearing operation. Although wildly enthusiastic, the Kuwaiti level of training was still rudimentary and their supplies limited. Many SF advisers were of the opinion that had the Iraqis put up stiff resistance inside the city, Kuwaiti forces would have been wiped out.

One veteran operator told me, "Their officers would not move without us, and were not adept at urban street fighting. They had limited supplies and no support they could call on effectively. Half the time they were celebrating, the other half seeking revenge against Iraqi troops and collaborators. If we hadn't been there during the early stages of retaking the city, who knows what might have happened?"

Working alongside Kuwaiti troops, SOF advisers began providing their higher command elements with intelligence about Kuwait City and the Iraqi occupation. They soon found themselves intervening in vengeance acts taken by the army against Iraqi soldiers and suspected civilian supporters of Saddam Hussein. At one point, a Kuwaiti brigade commander was convinced to remove his pistol barrel from the mouth of a POW.

"We tried to stop as many beatings and shootings as possible," an SF NCO recalled. "Sometime you'd stand right next to the soldier or officer, telling him you'd have to take your people and leave if they didn't knock it off. Most of the time that would work — sometimes we simply had to leave."

Out Of Control

Another officer told me, "They [the Kuwaitis] had pretty good intelligence as to who was a collaborator and who wasn't. It's pretty hard to apply our standards to their culture, especially when you hear that the offender is responsible for an atrocity, or murder, or rape of one of your counterpart's family members."

"We pretty much lost control of the situation once the city was secured," one adviser claimed. "The Kuwaiti army became the Kuwaiti martial-law police once they were back on their home turf. When the city was divided into sectors and the Kuwaiti army began administrating these sectors, we were politically pushed to the side. That's when our higher-higher

Continued on page 70

by Galen Geer

Walking back up the mountain was out of the question. Night had caught me several miles down the road, while Soldier Of Fortune Publisher Robert K. Brown was on top of the mountain with others in our hunting party. I fired some signal shots, then built a small fire and sat down to wait for him.

Brown had no way of knowing I had been following a large buck, and it was impossible to communicate my location to the mountaintop. But next time things will be different — we'll be carrying two-way radios. These radios are just one example of many new products we found at the 14th annual Shooting, Hunting, Outdoor Trade (SHOT) Show held in New Orleans this past January.



TWO-WAY RADIOS

Ritron Corp. is offering a powerful and compact two-way radio, the SportCom (SC-10), which operates on UHF FM channels recently made available to the public by the Federal Communications Commission. It runs on a rechargeable NiCad battery pack, which provides a range of up to two miles. The radio is sold with a 110-volt AC battery charger and retails for about \$159. For more information contact: Ritron Inc., Dept. SOF, 505 W. Carmel Drive, Carmel, IN 46032; phone: 317-846-1201.



WINCHESTER BLACK TALON AMMUNITION & SUBSONIC AMMO

Winchester's search for a better law enforcement load has led to their Black Talon bullet. And it's more than just another jacketed hollow point. The

core of the Supreme Expansion Talon (SXT) bullet is locked into place with a reverse-tapered jacket. This strategically notched design allows the bullet to penetrate and expand while retaining nearly 100% of its weight. The Black Talon is now being loaded in 9mm, .40 S&W, 10mm and .45 auto. A box sells for \$11.60 to \$16.25. There are future plans to load SXT in other calibers as well.

Winchester has also introduced five new subsonic pistol loads. These meet law enforcement criteria for penetration and expansion through all types of media. The new loads are called Super-X Subsonic (Deep Penetrator) and come in five calibers: .38 Special, 9mm, .40 S&W, 10mm and .45 auto. All five loads are designed for low recoil to allow excellent gun control. They sell for \$12.75 to \$31.84 a box. For more information contact: Winchester Division/Olin Corp., Dept. SOF, 427 N. Shamrock St., East Alton, IL 62024; phone: 618-258-2000.



SPRINGFIELD'S "R" SERIES

Springfield Armory is marketing four new dual-purpose Recreational Shooting Series handguns under their "R" designation. Each high-energy, high performance pistol is designed to fill a specific need within recreational shooting sports. The series includes the Panther in 9mm, .40 S&W and .45 ACP calibers, the Firecat in 9mm and .40 S&W, the Bobcat in .380 ACP and the Lynx in .25 auto. These guns range in price from \$250 to \$600. For more information contact: Springfield Armory, Dept. SOF, 420 W. Main St., Geneseo, IL 61254; phone: 309-944-5631.



GERBER'S MULTI-PLIER TOOL & PATRIOT KNIFE

Gerber's Multi-Plier is a compact belt implement that does the work of several different tools without being bulky. Retailing for \$70 to \$80, it features 13 individual components, all based around a pair of modified needle-nose pliers.

Another Gerber product at this year's SHOT Show was the Patriot Survival Knife, which has a high-carbon stainless steel blade with all metal parts blackened. The knife was designed by Blackie Collins for airborne, Ranger and Special Forces units. The Patriot comes equipped with a hard-molded sheath and a safety, making it "jump qualified." Its list price is \$130.

For more information on these products contact: Gerber, Dept. SOF, 14200 S.W. 72nd Ave., Portland, OR 97223; phone: 1-800-950-6161.



BULLET BANDS

Hunters of dangerous game have always recognized the need for quick access to extra ammunition. Most North American game (but not all) isn't in this category, but carrying extra ammo on any big game hunt is still important. Anderson Manufacturing Inc. has introduced a cartridge holder designed for such sportsmen — the Bullet Band. To be worn on one's arm, wrist, or even wrapped around a rifle stock, the band is made from reinforced neoprene foam and provides gripping power not found in wrapped-elastic bullet holding products. A pack of two Bullet Bands sells for \$11.95. For more information contact: Anderson Manufacturing Inc., Dept. SOF, 2741 N. Crosby, Oak Harbor, WA 98277; phone: 1-800-541-4242.



CAMERON ELECTRIC ZOOM BINOCULARS

Well-made zoom binoculars are a bonus for outdoorsmen. Recent advancements in optics have reduced the size of zoom instruments; today they compete in style and clarity against fixed-power binoculars. Now Cameron International markets a binocular that electronically zooms from 7X- to 15X-power with the touch of a button. Power comes from two AAA batteries, while the instrument weighs only 11.3 ounces. Excellent optical clarity throughout the zoom range and a \$229 price tag make these an interesting option for SOF readers. For more information contact: Cameron International, Dept. SOF, 17 Renwick Ave., Huntington, NY 11743; phone: 516-271-9727.

FIRSTSHOT DP51 9mm

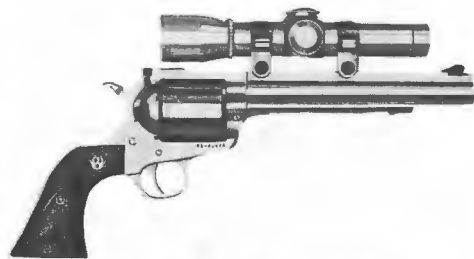
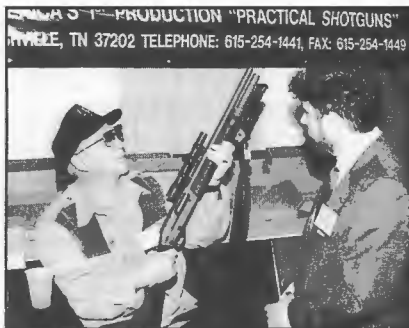
To get off a first shot with any dual-action semiauto, shooters often have to pull through the trigger squeeze with the hammer. With FirstShot's Daewoo DP51 pistol this is no longer necessary. The gun's action is designed for hammer-down carry, yet its first shot comes off with the ease and consistency of a cocked single-action, along with the safety of a double-action. Made in South Korea, the Daewoo DP51 is a 9mm model with an overall length of 7 inches, a 4-inch barrel length and a 13-round magazine capacity. The frame is high-tensile aluminum; the safety is ambidextrous. The DP51 pistol retails for around \$450. For more information, contact: FirstShot Inc., Dept. SOF, P.O. Box 6099, Harrisburg, PA 17112; phone: 717-238-2575.



TACTICAL RESPONSE SHOTGUNS

Border Patrol units of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service are now receiving shipments of a new tactical response shotgun. Developed by Scattergun Technologies, these shotguns are modified Remington 870s retailing from \$555 to \$755. This is the first time a major U.S. government agency has recognized the "practical" shotgun as the most versatile firearm available for general issue to field units.

One of the outstanding features on this tactical response weapon is its Trak-Lock ghost-ring sight, made entirely of steel and requiring just one screw to provide both windage and elevation. For more information, contact: Scattergun Technologies, Dept. SOF, Blue Heron Comm., 9 W. Main St., Honeoye Falls, NY 14472.



RUGER'S HUNTER REVOLVER & ULTRALIGHT RIFLE

During last year's hunt, Brown carried a Ruger Ultralight in .308 caliber and brought his buck down with a single 300-plus-yard shot. Ruger's Ultralights have been around for some time, but it is reassuring to know they are still an excellent choice for hunters.

This year, Ruger introduced a new handgun for hunters; the Ruger Super Blackhawk Hunter Revolver in .44 Magnum. This pistol is designed for use by hunters who want to mount a scope. Its overall length is approximately 13.5 inches; its empty weight is 54 ounces without a scope. With scope attached, the weight goes up to about 63 ounces. Prices range from \$380 to \$480. For more information contact: Sturm Ruger & Co. Inc., Dept. SOF, Ruger Road, Prescott, AZ 86301; phone: 602-778-6555.



ZEISS 20-POWER BINOCULARS

Carl Zeiss Optical Inc., has introduced a 20X60 binocular stabilized with an ultra-precise mechanical system with prisms mounted on a suspension. This allows its optical components to "sway" with the user's hand movements. The result of these "floating optics" is that light always falls on the same image plane, providing a steady image even with higher magnification. For more information on these unique binoculars selling for around \$4,725, contact: Carl Zeiss Optical Inc., Dept. SOF, 1015 Commerce St., Petersburg, VA 23803; phone: 804-861-0033.

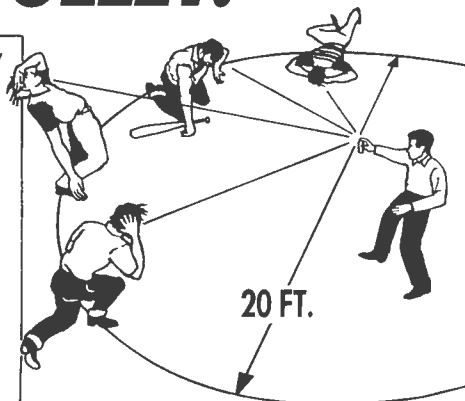
See next month's SOF for more new products introduced at the 1992 SHOT Show. We will also be testing a number of these items in the field in the next few months, so watch for our results.

Galen Geer is SOF Outdoor Affairs editor. 

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COMBAT CRAFT

Continued from page 21

But they are a secondary consideration in relation to being able to hit your target before he hits you. A .600 nitro express howdah pistol will not incapacitate your target if you don't hit it; in the kill zone — before it shoots you. It is better to have the capacity to operate both your brain and your weaponry than to rely on ballistics hypotheses.

I have attempted to point out the differences between merely having manual skills, or having harnessed those manual skills through realistic training and mental conditioning to be useful in fighting. Although you must have manual skills to win a gunfight, you won't win on dexterity alone. As Mao Zedong said: "Weapons are important but not decisive. It is man's directing intelligence which counts most." Whatever else, Mao was a pragmatist.

To win you must combine manipulative skill with tactics, cunning, ruthlessness — and play the dirtiest game in town.

Louis Awerbuck is owner-director of Yavapai Firearms Academy, a mobile small-arms training facility based in Prescott Valley, Arizona. Awerbuck has served as Chief Rangemaster at the American Pistol Institute in Paulden, Arizona, and is an adjunct instructor for the U.S. Department of Energy's Central Training Academy. ✕

STALLION

Continued from page 45

were no larger in diameter than 1.2 inches to 1.8 inches.

After firing only 100 rounds, it was noted that the base pin screw had badly deformed under recoil, since it was apparently too soft. A replacement was installed, which we first heat-treated to a surface-hardened 60 Rockwell C using Hard-N-Tuff from Brownells (Dept. SOF, Route 2, Box 1, Montezuma, IA 50171-9989; phone: 515-623-5401).

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velocity. The barrel is pointing at a higher angle when the heavier bullet leaves the muzzle, and it therefore has a higher point of impact. If you increase the propellant charge weight of the lighter bullet to duplicate the heavier bullet's recoil, it will also have a greater velocity. Thus it will leave the barrel sooner while the muzzle is at a lower angle, and again the lighter bullet will impact lower on the target.

In other words, no matter what the velocity, handgun loads with the same bullet weight will usually shoot to nearly the same point of impact. (In theory, higher-velocity projectiles should drop somewhat less than lower-velocity projectiles of the same weight, however, at handgun ranges the difference is insignificant.) Change the bullet weight and no matter what the velocity, the point of impact will move up or down.

Large-caliber single action revolvers with Colt M1873-style grip frames characteristically "roll" in the firing hand during recoil, even when a strong two-handed Weaver hold is employed, leaving the muzzle pointing up to the Pearly Gates. While this effectively minimizes the perceived recoil, the undesirable tradeoff is an extension of the time required to reacquire the target.

Because of this and the length of time required to reload these revolvers, no single action six-shooter can be given serious consideration as a street gun in this day and age. However, as previously stated, within the walls of your castle against no more than a couple of goblins, a horse pistol chambered for the .45 Colt cartridge remains a formidable weapon, especially when stuffed with five rounds of Black Hills ammunition with the 250-grain Hornady HP/XTP bullet. This round has the potential for more tissue disruption than the smaller calibers usually stored in a nightstand drawer.

Psychological phenomena aside, greater tissue disruption will increase hemorrhage and induce faster physiological incapacitation from rapid blood loss. Other than trauma to the central nervous system (the brain or upper spinal column), this remains the only mechanism for physiologically incapacitating an aggressor when employing a handgun.

Although it must be tuned for effective performance, Cimarron Arms' Rinaldo A. Carr 1895 U.S. Artillery Model represents an excellent value. It may be shot without fear of significant depreciation, while providing an interesting touch of U.S. martial arms history.

See this month's "Full Auto" column detailing effective combat loads for the .45 Colt cartridge.

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LIBERATORS

Continued from page 65

wisely pulled us out."

Although not directly involved in army operations any longer, SOF personnel from the 5th began searching for ammunition dumps and weapons caches. Before leaving the city, Saddam's forces had trained and armed many non-Kuwaiti collaborators, depositing thousands of rounds and hundreds of crates of weapons all over the city. Intelligence reports gathered from captured Iraqis pointed to an attempt by Hussein to turn Kuwait City into another Beirut.

In addition to their weapons searches, 5th Group medics visited local hospitals providing medical support as best they could. Special Forces engineers marked unexploded bombs and mines, while their comrades reconned the city to provide up-to-date information needed by the Coalition to restore order in the shattered capital. One such team of advisers discovered a pile of precious gems and gold jewelry in an apartment vacated by Iraqi troops.

"There must have been hundreds of thousands of dollars laying on the floor," one of the operators remembered. "But we left it where we found it. We weren't there to loot or benefit from the Kuwaitis' misfortunes."

The 5th was asked to remain in Kuwait

City for an additional three weeks after the war's end. B Company, 3/5, would redeploy from KKMC after Christmas, its job with the Kuwaiti army finished and deemed a success by those who monitored its effort. Overall, the 3rd Battalion's teams completed FID missions with both the Saudis and Kuwaitis, with companies A and C assisting in explosive ordinance disposal, PSYOP/Civil Affairs activities and urban security measures in Kuwait City.

Relieved by teams from the 3rd Special Forces Group, the 5th returned to Fort Campbell where its Desert Storm participants were awarded two Silver Stars, one Distinguished Flying Cross, two Soldier Medals, and 70 Bronze Stars with "V"-devices. In addition, an impressive number of combat infantry and combat medic badges were awarded.

"Despite the frustrations, the setbacks, the obstacles and the challenges, they did a damn fine job where the Kuwaiti army was concerned," one 5th Group officer noted. "That the Kuwaitis were able to field a liberation force is directly due to the involvement of Major Phelan's teams. It was a classic SF mission, and it proved our worth as a credible element within the conventional commander's overall war plan."

Greg Walker, a former Special Forces NCO, is currently executive editor of *Fighting Knives* magazine. He also is

writing a volume on special operations for Ballantine Books.✕

GRENDL

Continued from page 31

an M92 expends his first magazine.

The .22 WMR ammo in this case shoots flatter, has more penetration and is easier to control than the 9mm. Also, the .22 WMR round packs a much greater punch than standard .22 rounds. For instance, Federal found that their .22 LR penetrated only five 3/4-inch pine boards, while their .22 Mag went through 11 such boards — more than twice as many.

The P-30 pistol (and its near cousins, the P-30L and P-30LM) is the brainchild of George Kellgren, president of Grendel Inc. of Rockledge, Florida. Cut somewhat in the same mold as the 9mm Glock pistol, Grendel P-30s are all made from high-quality LaSalle stress-proofed steel and Zytel structural nylon. They have a futuristic tooled-nylon feel and look, but like the Glock they are far from invisible to X-ray machines.

Approximately 2,500 P-30s of the three models have been placed on the market by Grendel's small 20-employee crew since it cranked up operations in August 1990.

Costing \$225 for the standard P-30 trail-type pistol with 5-inch barrel, \$280

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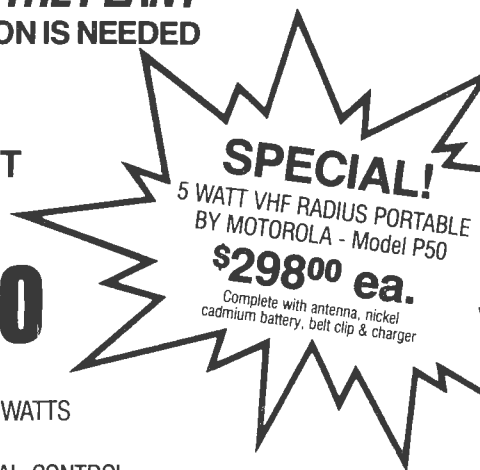
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for the P-30L with its slightly more accurate 8-inch barrel, or \$295 for the target version featuring an 8.5-inch barrel and muzzle brake, one could reasonably conclude that part of Grendel's charm is price. In an era of \$400 to \$600 pistols, something well made and classy for half of this is attractive.

Empty weight is 21 ounces. Attaching a loaded 30-round Zytel magazine adds only 6 ounces. Even carrying an extra magazine, the P-30 is a long-distance patroller's delight.

Trigger pull is unique, in that creep must be taken up to a point where the pull is very firm and crisp. Let-off is appropriate for a pistol of this weight. Locktime is quick and positive.

Rounds To Spare

Recoil is so light a weapon is evident, but not a major consideration. Full-sized grips allow a firm grasp and assist in easily maintaining control. Certainly, muzzle flip is far less than a 9mm's. In my experience, the single largest problem is the Grendel's incredible muzzle blast. With its .22 WMR ammo, it is not suitable for firing either without earmuffs or indoors.

After firing 600 test rounds without problems, I conclude that this pistol is reliable as long as one uses Winchester or Federal ammo. The Grendel must be cleaned every 200 rounds or malfunction may occur from powder fouling, regardless of make of ammo.

Grendel's P-30s have fluted chambers to assist extraction, and are inertial-locked ("blowback") designs with fixed barrels, leading — it seems — to powder fouling. Fortunately, fieldstripping is quick and simple. You need only unscrew the barrel sleeve, pull out the recoil spring and barrel bushing, pull the slide back and up; all parts are then accessible for cleaning.

The manual safety is ambidextrous, rotating on the hammer axis. When engaged, the safety both disconnects the sear and blocks the hammer. Due to the gun's modest weight and because the safety rotates down to fire, I found that until I became familiar with the P-30, the web of my hand tended to move up on recoil and inadvertently reactivate the safety mechanism. Six other owners of P-30s in my area do not experience this problem, leading me to believe this easily corrected situation is of my own doing.

Sights are a windage-adjustable front blade, and a fixed-square rear notch. Moving the front sight is easy but was unnecessary. Filing the front blade or deepening the rear notch could easily be accomplished in one's shop if this were necessary.

Since I am only a passable pistol shot, groups I could or could not shoot with the Grendel tended more to illustrate my deficiencies as a *pistolero* than reflect the P-30's accuracy. As a result, I fired virtually all of my test rounds at 100 feet into an 18- by 24-inch steel bullet trap. All

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of the rounds rang the gong, proving — in my eyes anyway — the pistol could shoot adequately for self-defense and as a hunting/packing side arm.

Other than my accidentally klutzing the safety a time or two, problems with the Grendel have been minor. It functions well when kept internally clean, even in mud, snow and water. And its design seems to adequately protect its internal operating parts.

Priority Service

One of our pistols broke a firing pin after 400 rounds, which I reported to the Grendel factory. All Grendels are covered by a full, unconditional, lifetime, no-questions-asked warranty for the original purchaser. When I called the factory on their 800 number, they priority-mailed a new pin to me.

Seems that, as many manufacturers do, Grendel subcontracted for all of their firing pins. There were no problems among the first batch they bought. Yet some firing pins in the second batch purchased were improperly heat-treated, leading to occasional breakage. Unfortunately, it was impossible to predict which pins would break. Since then Grendel has tightened quality controls on the hardening process.

As a result of the unique allen screw construction, replacement of the firing pin took less than four minutes, even though I initially had no idea how to proceed.

Grendel's use of nicely blued, aesthetically contoured button-head allen screws to assemble the pistol may put off some gun enthusiasts unwilling to move into 21st century designs.

Overall look and feel of the Grendel is pleasant. It is sufficiently eye-catching enough that absolutely every gun owner I have shown it to has purchased one. Grendel P-30s look very much like Astra 600 autoloaders except for the P-30's grip, which is much thicker.

Acquiring a Grendel in the P-30 series is not a quick process. Presently the factory produces only for back orders, rotating among their various designs one week to the next. Grendel also produces a carbine and a .380 backup pistol. All sales are factory-direct to dealers, there being no distributors with weapons in inventory. One must have his dealer contact the factory and wait 40 to 50 days.

Backpacker's Delight

As a result of its light weight and incredible firepower, the Grendel will probably set the standard as a hunter's and backpacker's side arm, and also as a police weapon.

Because of their low-rust, low-maintenance, mostly structural nylon construction, Grendels will probably find their way in large numbers into boats and airplane emergency bags. Given its magazine capacity adequate for most four- or five-day missions, my guess is that

those who can get them for such purposes will do so.

Ragnar Benson is an Idaho-based freelance writer. He has published numerous articles and books on firearms and outdoor topics.✉

UNEASY RIDERS

Continued from page 55

informed us that all U.N. checkpoints further north would gladly offer us hot meals and accommodations whenever necessary. This was comforting to know, as what we had encountered up to this point had been depressing.

While waiting to have our customs documents stamped in Xangongo, our contact man in Lubango arrived and invited us to dine with the governor and high-ranking generals of the FAPLA forces. They went out of their way to show us their hospitality. After several pints of N'Gola (beer) and bottles of wine, we departed in convoy with our hosts escorting us up to the FAPLA garrison at Cahama.

It took us seven hours to travel the 100km from Xangongo to our destination — in pitch darkness on roads that were virtually impassable. We found it safer riding in the bush than on the surface of the



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road, as it had been almost totally destroyed by some 400 Soviet tanks which had deployed toward the Namibian border.

On our arrival in Cahama, we were surrounded by FAPLA and Cuban military personnel who were intrigued by our unbelievable expedition. We were directed to the governor's house by two ranking officers who posted guards around the house for our security. The comfortable sleep was welcomed by us all. The next morning we bade our hosts farewell and headed on for Lubango.

We had no idea that we had passed through a FAPLA logistical strongpoint and resupply depot for war-era forward firebases. We proceeded north, encountering numerous wandering nomads whom time had forgotten. They were roving around aimlessly as if there was no tomorrow. Passing through various near-deserted towns, we saw troops moving and unloading ground-to-air missile batteries, which were severely battle-worn.

Arriving at Chibea, we were swamped by enthusiastic and bewildered locals. We were also approached by four traffic officers who displayed brand-new Honda motorcycles — their prized possessions. Considering the absolute poverty and scarcity of food, these new motorcycles seemed to make no sense at all.

Our tour moved at a steady pace, dodging potholes and mortar craters. We regrouped outside another FAPLA

congregation point where destroyed military hardware lay everywhere. This seemed to be a graveyard where vehicles were cannibalized to keep "roadworthy" equipment running. Resident troops were ecstatic to see us and enthusiastically posed for photographs. We sensed that these men had grown old overnight, losing the best years of their lives fighting a war they did not understand nor even care about.

Bullet-Riddled Prince Of Peace

Lubango is surrounded by a huge mountain range, topped at the highest point with a gigantic statue of Jesus Christ overlooking the town. Arms outstretched, this bullet-riddled monument of grandeur had been caught in a crossfire of various forces using it to vent their anger at the Almighty. From graffiti inscribed all over the monument, we could see the generations of people who had left their marks.

A number of radar and missile sights were scattered alongside the great statue. We were told not to take photographs or even stare for too long, as there were military personnel watching us closely. We eventually left the mountain pass, capturing some incredible camera footage at high speed. At one point a MiG-29 passed overhead at very low altitude, making the earth shudder. Yet this did not stir the locals, who were apparently used to frequent flybys.

A Soviet helicopter pilot came rushing out of the U.N. facility in the center of Lubango shouting "Ruski! Ruski!" hoping, we presumed, to impress us but making us wonder why these guys weren't long gone back to their homes. We continued dodging the incredible Angolan rainstorms that built up during early afternoons, turning bad roads into swamps and presumably lifting shallow landmines on either side of a road — a major killer of the locals in Angola.

Our reconnaissance had to be rescheduled. The Angolan rains had appeared earlier this year, leaving roads impassable farther north. After two days at Port Namibia as guests of the governor we were interviewed by National Angolan Television, which informed us we were the first tourists to visit this war-torn country.

We started our return back to Namibia covering ground and kilometers much quicker, as we had a better knowledge of the terrain, holes and craters. On our arrival in Cahama at midday, we had the pleasure of meeting a Soviet military adviser who approached us with a local brew in his hand, shouting "Americano!Americano!" When we told him we were from South Africa, he immediately came to attention and saluted us. We were sure that more than once he had been on the receiving end of South African G6 "big guns" that could have turned him into Russian caviar.

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this unfortunate human, who had greeted us in the traditional Russian manner. We discovered through one of his counterparts that he was a major, so we introduced him to a colonel who was a member of our party. He saluted the higher rank with absolute respect. After exchanging memorabilia in the form of uniforms, caps and cigarettes, we came to the conclusion that this man would have given us his soul, had we asked.

Later, passing through the devastated town of Quito, we stopped to photograph some of the propaganda art — faces of Castro, Lenin and the late Dr. Neto covered military control points. We came across an abandoned communist ammunition dump deserted by withdrawing FAPLA forces — an awesome example of the financial waste of war.

We proceeded on down to Johannesburg, having covered 10,500km on one of our most memorable adventures.

Ray Muller, a former SADF member, is in the process of organizing more tours like the one described above. For further information write to: Cy Tech RSA, P.O. Box 82396, Southdale 2135, Republic of South Africa; phone: (011) 27-402-3309; fax: (011) 27-402-3381.

through the clouds and rain, he remarked (though not to me) that if we all ended up against the side of a mountain, he would at least get his picture hung up on the embassy wall.

— D.R.

David Rivera is a freelance journalist who has been living in Colombia since 1986.

BORDER BANDITS

Continued from page 49

devil-may-care grins, the kind worn by guys with difficult and dangerous jobs that provide a high degree of personal satisfaction.

Jim got in the back and I climbed into the shotgun seat next to Dave. As we drove through San Ysidro to the crossing point, we talked about the job. Driver Dave was the senior man, unabashedly in love with his work. Jim had injured himself and been out for several weeks, but was just getting back in shape.

We started at the actual official border crossing, where I-5 becomes a Mexican highway. It's very impressive, with the Border Patrol checking cars through an elaborate complex of government buildings, and a storm fence with razor wire atop it that stretches out of sight — where it stops — at the exact spot where it disappears from sight of tourists, it turns into something that wouldn't keep cows in a pasture.

This storm fence is expensive, and there are spots further out where holes have been cut in it big enough to drive a truck through. Indeed, that was the purpose; a lot of drugs are smuggled through the fence.

"The Army Corps of Engineers has been building barriers out of surplus steel runway materials," Jim commented from the back.

"Makes a real barrier," Dave added. "They can't cut through that. It's moved all the crossings further west, made it a lot harder to come through."

As twilight phased into night, the canyons that had looked so ugly from the air acquired a kind of weird beauty. The light goes crazy in those steep gray walls and the scrub vegetation becomes magical in the shadows. The 4x4 did things I didn't know a car could do. At one point, Dave drove over a cliff that turned out to be about as steep as a roller coaster drop-off, and we dove into the canyons like fighter pilots.

At the top of the rise, the sunset did its thing. There was a band of mauve and magenta running across the horizon out at sea. And lime in there somewhere. San Diego and Tijuana became carpets of lights. Millions of white points of light spread out over the hills as far as the eye could see.

On the American side, the lights follow

COLOMBIA

Continued from page 41

A STRANGER IN BLACK

Upon landing on the airstrip outside Chaparral, we were met by Anti-Narcotics Police — and someone else. Leaning against the retaining fence was a man wearing a black hat, black T-shirt, black jacket, black pants and black shoes. He also wore a black beard. His eyes, however, were blue. He photographed each one of us as we got off the plane.

When I drew closer, I could see that he was clearly an American. Here in Colombia, especially out in the boonies, it is customary (almost mandatory) to greet fellow countrymen. He didn't, and I was almost happy because of this. I'm 6 feet 2 inches tall and weigh 185 pounds, but this guy looked like he could break me in half. What's more, he looked like he wanted to.

But after a while, I asked him who he was and what he did. "I take pictures for the police," he snarled back, then walked away. He also accompanied us to the mountain and back, never talking to anyone but the Colombian police. I asked the U.S. Embassy people I travelled with about "Black Bart's" identity. They said they didn't know, though they obviously did. Since the official position of the U.S. and Colombian governments is that DEA personnel *never* go on operations, I didn't push the matter.

He was seated next to me on the way back to Chaparral. As our chopper lifted off

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regular patterns, but on the Tijuana side they're a riot; no pattern, no order, just all over the place.

Dave gestured toward the river at the bottom of the canyon running parallel to the border. "That's a river of shit down there," Jim pointed out. "Tijuana dumps their sewage into it. We took a new guy out one time and he said, 'What it that, a sewage treatment plant?'"

"'Nope,' I said, 'No treatment.'" Jim continued. "There's guys down there who stake out crossing points, throw a plank or something over it. Charge everybody who crosses a buck or so. Sometimes they just rob the people outright. Unbearably rank, these guys. We call 'em 'trolls.'" "

Los SWAT

A young Mexican loomed into our headlights, then faded back into the bushes. "Policia! No esta Migra [Immigration]," Dave called out, and the kid stopped. We stopped, too, and he came to the driver's side window. He and Dave spoke for a moment in rapid-fire Spanish. "He says there's some cholos down in the canyon, but he doesn't know where. There's another group up by the fence. Maybe they'll know more," Dave said.

We drove up the hill by the fence where a group of illegals stood. One of the bolder ones, a young man, walked up and talked with Dave for awhile, then we drove on. "They don't seem afraid," I said.

"No, they run from the Border Patrol, but they know who we are, know we're here to protect 'em. They call us Los SWAT," Dave replied.

It was time for a break, so we drove out of the canyons back into San Ysidro and stopped at a 7-11 for coffee.

These are amazing guys — I haven't encountered such sincere dedication, such a clear sense of mission, since the early days of Special Forces in Vietnam. It's a real sense that every day you're doing something that makes a positive difference in people's lives. We finished our coffee and headed back to the canyons. "I don't see how you can chase these guys in the dark in that terrain without killing yourself," I told Dave.

"The paths are pretty well worn," he replied. "You get to where you can move on them in the dark."

"He can," Jim put in from the back seat. "First night I came back, I tripped and almost put myself back in the hospital."

Finishing the tour, we passed a group of tar-paper and packing-crate shacks about 100 yards from the highway. "We got in a firefight here, about 100 yards from headquarters one night," Dave said.

Manny's right. There's no standardized training for that.

Jim Morris is a longtime SOF contributor who currently lives and writes in Southern California. He's written numerous books including The Devil's Secret Name.



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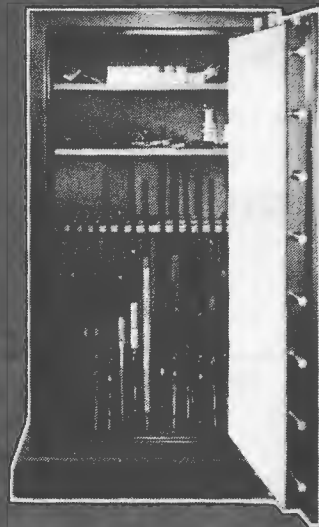
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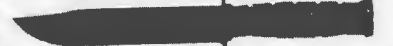
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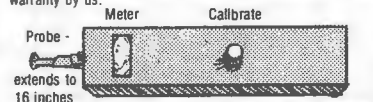
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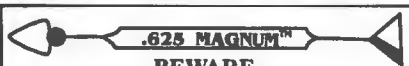


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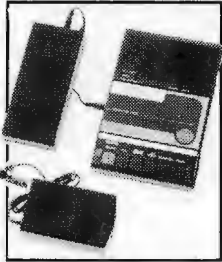
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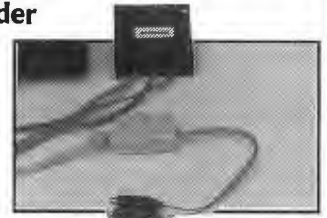
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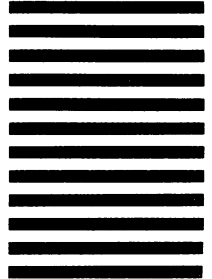
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